

The  
Penguin  
Guides

# *Hampshire*

*and the Isle of Wight*

EDITED BY  
L. RUSSELL  
MUIRHEAD



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THE PENGUIN GUIDES

*Edited by L. Russell Muirhead, Editor of the Blue Guides*

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HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT





# THE PENGUIN GUIDES

KENT, SUSSEX AND SURREY

SOMERSET

CORNWALL

DEVON

DERBYSHIRE

THE LAKE DISTRICT

SUFFOLK AND CAMBS

WILTS AND DORSET

HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT

NORFOLK AND ISLE OF ELY

NORTH WALES

HERTS AND BUCKS

BERKS AND OXON

THE PENGUIN GUIDES

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Hampshire and the  
Isle of Wight

BY

S. E. WINBOLT

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## FOREWORD

THE Penguin Guide to **Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**, like the rest of the volumes in the series, is intended as an introduction for travellers of all sorts to the country described. Kept purposely within small compass, its chief aim is to draw the attention of its readers to some of the features of interest and beauty in the district with which it deals. It does not claim to be complete – a practical impossibility in so small a volume – and if it induces any of its readers to make further exploration of the countryside, whether on foot, or by car or cycle, or even in the pages of other more detailed books, its object will have been attained.

At the same time it does claim to be a useful guide to the most outstanding points in the area covered, and, with the companion volumes in the series, it completes the 'Penguin' description of the South Coast of England, from the North Foreland to Land's End, as well as of the historic country that lies inland. Extending from the Channel shore to within sight of the Thames valley, Hampshire is the most typical of all the southern counties of England, with its combination of forest land, downland, and farmland. It contains within its boundaries one of the most ancient and one of the most modern of the great towns of England, as well as two famous seaports, and an old-established military centre. In the history and literature of our land it has played a foremost part; and in the Isle of Wight it enjoys a unique possession, an island favoured by a mild and sunny climate which has been frequented as a pleasure and holiday resort at least as far back as Roman times.

The present edition has been revised by Mr F. R. Banks.

The district is here covered by a series of cross-country routes intersecting each other at many points, so that parts

of several routes may be combined in one excursion; and a wide range of topics is dealt with – from ancient history to the position of to-day's airfields, from the geology of the soil to the lay-out of the most modern by-pass roads, including in some places (unhappily) a note of certain old ways that have been closed as a result of restrictions arising out of the war. Any traveller who is willing to pause on his way through the countryside should find within these pages something to interest him.

No attempt is made to give a complete list of hotels or other houses of refreshment – that is left to the more formal guide-books – but a selection has been made of inns and other good halting-places, which in the opinion of the author and editor are worthy of mention for one reason or another. The omission of a name does not imply condemnation, and no advertisements of any kind are accepted from hotels. Numerals coming after the names of hotels signify: *I*, a large house of first-class type; *II*, a more modest house providing good accommodation; *III*, a simple inn of the village type.

A great feature is the eight-page atlas, in three colours, on the scale of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch to a mile, covering the whole of the county described. These maps not only show all the available roads and a number of the most important footpaths, but are also specially marked to indicate the most attractive roads and the towns and villages most worthy of a visit.

An alphabetical index of the chief places described will be found at the end of the book.

## ARCHITECTURE

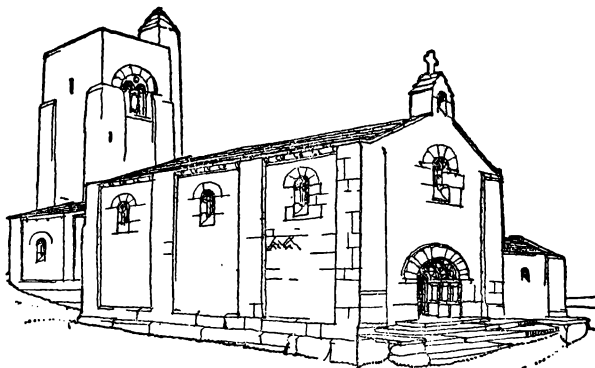
CHURCHES, cathedrals, old manor houses, great 18th-cent. mansions, farmhouses and barns, the streets and alley-ways of the tiniest villages or of the cities – all these are part and parcel of the beauty and interest of our island. If we know how to look at these streets and buildings then their sometimes unbelievable beauty, as well as the fascination of a history of which we ourselves are but the latest chapter, are both ours for the asking.

We can look at buildings in many ways. There is the point of view of the archaeologist – how old is it? No doubt it is of interest to know whether three or thirty generations have passed since the mason's trowel first laid that mortar; but age in itself has no intrinsic merit, a building is not more beautiful, its builders not more vital to our history merely because of the passing of time. A date in itself is nothing, it is the humanity behind the stones that matters.

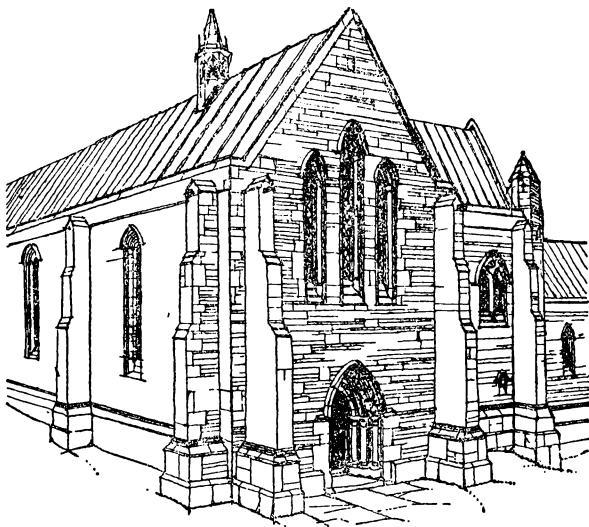
A proper sense of historical background is vital to our understanding and enjoyment. What was England really like when this church or that manor house was building? Were the hedges there and had the forests been cut? How were the stones carried? Were Manchester and Birmingham more than villages? What rights and what justice had these men? What did they eat and wear, and what was their faith? There is a lifetime of fascinating reading behind the answers to these questions; and even a little of such understanding is worth a thousand twopenny local guide books which give a few dates, a few names, and a couple of quaint anecdotes.

First, England is a slow growth; a series of layers – the product of one age being added to and superimposed on that of an earlier one. We say that this or that town is old. What do we mean? The answer will vary, but it will perhaps

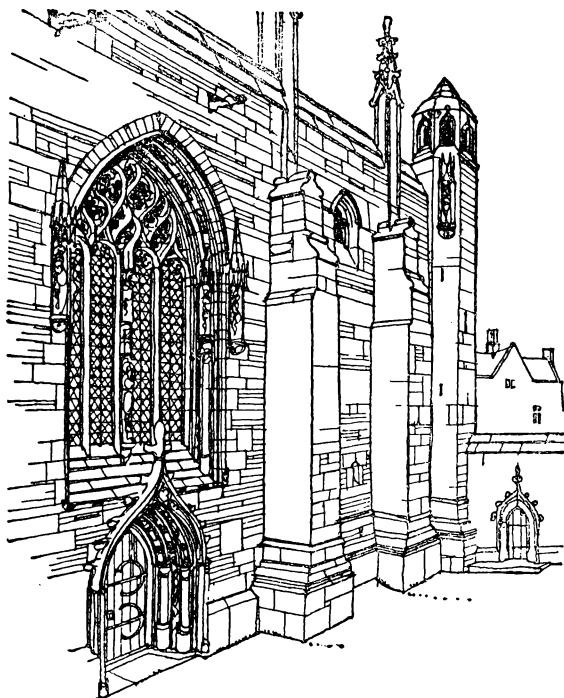




1. Norman – usually very simple with thick walls and small openings. Wall slightly thicker at load-bearing points, but principle of buttress not realized. The semi-circular arch of ancient Rome still persists.

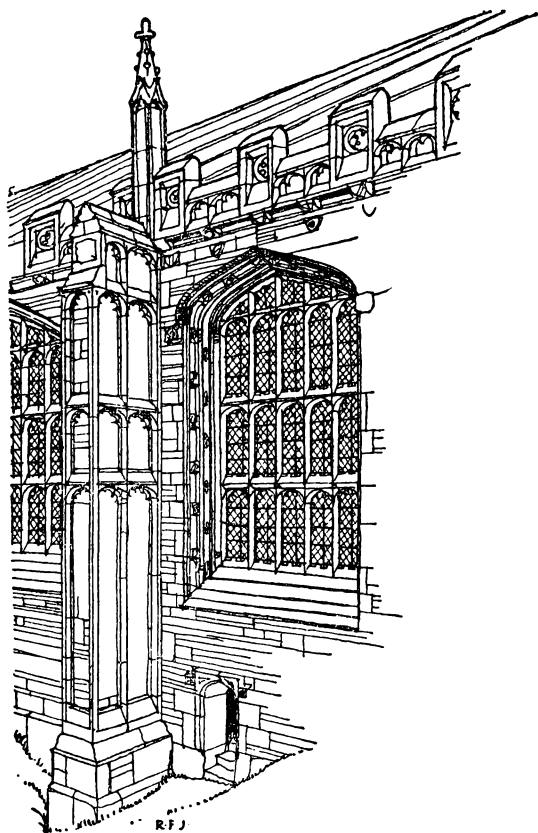


2. Early English – more scientific, the thrust of roof or vault being met by projecting buttress. Windows are being grouped in twos and threes, but still no tracery. Arches pointed to harmonize with vault above. Little carving or ornament.



3. Decorated: structural principle of thrust and buttress more fully realized. Grouping of lancet windows now become one window with elaborate tracery, a fuller and more luxurious age is expressed.

run something like this: down there by the 15th-cent. bridge – which they are thinking of widening now – the road that the Roman legions made once crossed the river; the children can still paddle in the ford. And it was there, on the road and near the water that the Saxons built their little Christian church – a thousand years ago. Then William came from Caen with his Norman knights and bishops, and with them they brought the great tradition that they had inherited from ancient Rome – the tradition of building in the grand manner. And so they too built.



4. Perpendicular: buttress takes full weight of roof, so that windows can be much larger – a field for the stained-glass worker. Ornament less lavish and more mechanical – the stone ‘panelling’ with tall proportions gives the name to the style.

These were the ages of faith: the Church was all powerful, the holder of vast lands, the great influence in men’s lives, their university and hospital, the international bond that

made all Europe one and, above all, the great patron whom the arts and crafts were there to serve. So the Normans built; first the knights built that castle keep to hold the road, then, to protect the people, they built the town wall – it ran where the boundary of the legion's camp had run – and then they began to rebuild the Saxon church. They made it the seat of a bishop and so called it a cathedral. For a time they would use, perhaps, the Saxon church as a chancel for the new cathedral, while they built the new Norman nave – strong and simple like the men themselves.

Then, as the centuries passed, the masons – the great engineers of their day – developed their craft; and it is this development through 500 years (say A.D. 1000–1500), this tradition of engineering in stone, that we call Medieval (or Gothic) Architecture. As time went by the detail changed – at the beginning we had the thick walls and small windows of the Normans and at the end we had the carving, the glory and the stained glass of, say, King's College Chapel at Cambridge or Henry VII's Chapel at Westminster, but always the changes were made gradually, each generation improving just a little on the work of its predecessors. And so to divide Medieval Architecture into hard and fast 'styles' (Early English, Decorated, Perpendicular, etc.) with dates attached, is to give a false picture. A rich monastery like Gloucester or Westminster might be a hundred years ahead of the builders of a church in some remote Yorkshire village. The craft of the mason was organized from Rome to Scotland, but ideas travelled very slowly.

These engineers in stone had three main problems to solve: (1) they had to provide a fitting house for the elaborate ritual of the Church and for the great processions of pilgrims to the saints' and martyrs' shrines that lay behind the High Altar – one thinks of Chaucer's pilgrims journeying to Canterbury; (2) they had to build over this vast church a great fireproof roof, and they had to do it with such stones



as a packhorse could carry from the quarry; (3) they had to let in as much light as they could – more and more as time went by – and yet to keep the panes of glass small, for that was all the glass they knew. The answer to problem 1 was the ‘plan’ – the nave and chancel and aisles, focusing on the celebration of Mass at the altar, and the transepts and chapels and Lady Chapel. Everything which we see still in the quiet and empty spaces at Wells or York or Lincoln once played its part in a highly organized ritual, and it all glowed with colour and life and meaning. The answer to problem 2 was the high stone vault – precision work in stone – with its system of ribs with buttresses and flying-buttresses to take their outward thrust. The answer to problem 3 was ‘tracery’, that lovely system of stone bars dividing up the window into graceful patterns, resisting wind pressure and giving a magnificent field for the stained-glass worker. It was all a glorious blend of faith and science and art.

So, in our old town, we shall find that perhaps even before the Normans had carried their nave to roof level, another generation had come who built more gracefully and with increasing confidence, and high in the upper part of the Norman nave they would build their steeply pointed windows in harmony with the pointed stone vault above. Then, a century later, the old Saxon chancel would be rebuilt on grander lines and with all the intricacies of intersecting vaulting ribs and interweaving tracery bars and rich carving (once gilded) that we associate with the 14th cent., and call ‘Decorated’. Then perhaps would come the Lady Chapel or a rebuilding of, say, a transept, and there we may find the huge windows of Tudor days, with the mass of vertical stone bars that gave the name ‘Perpendicular’ to the style. And in memorials and tombs and screens and doorways you will find a bewildering medley of all manners of building right up to our own day. That is the kind of story you can read into most English cathedrals and, on a smaller scale, you

can for yourself read a very similar story into the quiet charm and musty odours of a village church.

Note three things: one, we cannot say how 'old' is this cathedral, it was building more or less continuously for half a thousand years; two, we cannot say who was its 'architect', there was no such person – generations of unknown craftsmen, proud of their skill, worked out their problems for themselves; three, these questions don't matter. What does matter is that we should have an understanding of the kind of life, the state of mind, that produced these things, and an understanding and enjoyment of the harmonies, the lights and shades and colours, the grouping of the towers, the rhythm of the vault within and the perspective of the buttresses without that go to make up that mysterious something that we call 'beautiful'.

And so too, out in the streets, there was the same kind of growth. In the central core of our old city we may find a few, though very few, houses that were there when the later parts of the cathedral were built. But houses, before 1500, unless they were the country manors of the great feudal lords, were simpler and less durable than the churches – affairs of timber and thatch – and for the most part they disappeared long ago. Here and there you may find them . . . in the once rich and busy wool market towns of the Cotswolds or East Anglia the merchants built their houses as well and as proudly as the churches, and there are too the half-timbered streets of the Midlands and the South-East. But for the most part it is probable that our city core, like the quiet clergy houses in the cathedral Close, will belong to a later time, to the 18th cent.; when a middle-class (shopkeepers, lawyers, doctors, etc.) had arisen to build themselves homes. In the quiet brick fronts – prim and sedate and unpretentious, with simple doorways and painted sash windows – we see an expression of their unruffled and unhurried lives. But even here the idea of 'growth' persists; if we penetrate the alleys and back-

yards we may sometimes find the huge beams and the older and smaller sort of bricks that show us that these prim façades and panelled rooms of the days of the Georges were built on the sites of older houses, and that perhaps the kitchens or outhouses or the 'bones' of the house itself were really there when the scaffolding was still round the cathedral tower.

And so we can read on until we come to the era of steam, to the manufacture by machinery of cheaper and nastier building materials and to their cheap transport, to the passing away of craftsmanship and to an era of building in misunderstood and badly copied styles. So, in the over-prosperous days of our great-grandparents, street after street was rebuilt and 'improved' out of all recognition. And so to the second-rate vulgarity of our own day . . . to the super-imposed 'shop-fronts' of the chain-store, all vermilion or black and chromium and shoddy, and to the ill-mannered self-assertion of the latest cinema and to the outlying bungalows of the nineteen-thirties.

That is the story of the town: you can adapt it yourself to the village, with the parish church as the core and the manor house as the symbol of an older social system, and the humble cottages built in the local way and built in the 19th cent. much as they had been in the 15th.

There are a dozen ways of looking at buildings; but this principle of slow growth closely linked with the ever-changing social system – feudal, agricultural, religious, aristocratic, industrial, commercial – is essential; if we understand that then the whole story takes on a certain unity and cohesion. The beauty is always there for the eyes that can see it; it will emerge gradually of itself if there is an understanding of how these things came to be.

Look too, if you have a more mechanical turn of mind, for the old solutions of mechanical problems: how cathedral vaults were supported and held up by the buttresses, how

the timber roofs of village churches were put together by the old carpenters, or how, in say the Cotswolds, the masons solved almost every problem by the skilful use of their stone – importing as few materials as possible – and how in stone jointing alone there is a study which can become a complete hobby in itself.

And notice – above all perhaps – how this skilful use of a local material gives more than half the beauty to our country: stone in the great limestone belt (Dorset, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, etc.) or brick in the clay lands of the Midlands, harder granitic stones in the villages of the Yorkshire or Derbyshire dales, or thatch and cob in Devonshire . . . none of these materials were used because of their beauty, they were used for the very practical reason that they were close at hand, and they were used with the knowledge and understanding of many lifetimes. Their interest lies in the skill with which they were handled to make enduring and weatherproof houses, their beauty lies in the fact that they give to the villages an overall unity of colour and proportion, and that their use makes our man-made villages and farmhouses – like our man-made chequer-board landscape – a part of the soil of England.

R. FURNEAUX JORDAN



# HANTS

## A SHORT SURVEY

**GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY.** Towards an understanding of the scenery and disposition of towns, villages, and roads in the county of Hampshire, the following geological and geographical facts will be useful. The most outstanding feature is the chalk hills. The Sussex South Downs enter the county near Butser Hill, and the higher chalk hills extend NW. by Old Winchester Hill to St Catherine's Hill at Winchester and beyond to Pitt Down. Another wing tends N. from Butser by East Tisted, Medstead, and Alton, where a junction is made with the North Downs of Kent and Surrey and the Hog's Back ridge. Here the hills, broadening to the NW. round Farleigh Wallop and Dummer, continue to Kingsclere and Burghclere, between Sidown Hill (N.) and Andover (S.). The chalk proceeds into Berks and Wilts. The boldest of the downs are in the NW. corner round Highclere, e.g. Sidown c. 900 ft, though Butser (SE.) is a good second. Many points in the ranges give grand views; the air is dry and bracing; and the smooth contours seen at a distance are soothing to the eye. In the remoter villages now and then you come on delightfully wild places. Big yew trees – 'the Hampshire weed', as beeches count as the Buckinghamshire weed – and junipers flourish, and occasional woodlands clinging to the steep hill-sides are called 'hangers' as in Sussex. The county boasts a wealth of trees in great variety. Huge chalk pits abound, as at Kingsclere, Monk Sherborne, and Odiham, from which through ages chalk was taken for marling agricultural land.

The NE. region of the county N. of Basingstoke was a part of the wide and ancient forest area extending to the river Kennet; from W.-E., Baughurst, Silchester, Bramley,

Sherfield on Loddon, Hartley Row, Fleet, and Farnborough are in this area, a great hunting ground, where the Roman-Britons long eluded the Saxon invader, as they did in the Weald of Surrey, Sussex, and Kent. Broadly speaking it is on London Clay and Bagshot Sands. On the E. between Farnham (N.) and Petersfield (S.) is a narrow S.-shaped outcrop of the Upper Greensand, with a narrow lining to the E. of Gault. The W. and SW. regions, from Havant and Fareham by Southampton and the New Forest, consist of Bagshot and Bracklesham Beds with a narrow fringe of London Clay and Claygate Beds, and comprise the principal forests or their remains – Bere (N. of Portsdown) and the New Forest. Of the minor forests, Harewood is on the chalk W. of the river Test near Andover, while Alice Holt and Woolmer on the Lower Greensand are wedged in between the chalk immediately W. of Selborne and the high sand of Hindhead.

There are no great rivers, but very pleasant small ones offering good entertainment for anglers: the Test and Itchen, the Meon, the Bourne stream, the Loddon and its tributaries, the Lymington river, and the lower reaches of the Avon by Fordingbridge and Ringwood, and of the Stour, the two meeting at Christchurch.

It is claimed that, apart from the New Forest, Hampshire ‘carries away the palm for the beauty and extent of her woodland scenery among all English counties’: perhaps a bold claim, as Sussex, one might think, must be close on her heels.

The geology and geography of the Isle of Wight also are dominated by its central chalk (see under Wight). The sea-board, though not exciting except in parts of Wight, provides popular resorts, among others Bournemouth and Boscombe, Southsea, South Hayling, Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor, Ryde, and Cowes. Riverside and valley give a great many really charming villages, such as Godshill (Wight), Tichborne, Sopley, East Meon, and Bentworth. Certain old-time industries rose from natural conditions; under the

Normans the iron ore round Stratfield Saye led to smelting in that district, and similarly Petersfield was a centre of iron-works. In medieval times there were notable smiths at Odiham; Lymington prospered on the production of salt in pans on the coast, and alum was (and is) obtained from the W. corner of the Isle of Wight. The Binstead and other stone quarries of the island were extensively used for building in medieval and earlier times, especially at Winchester.

\*

**HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.** The Isle of Wight has produced evidence that long before man appeared on the earth strange beasts such as the kangaroo-like monster, the iguanodon, roamed these parts as in the Sussex Weald. Countless ages afterwards men of the Old Stone Age chipped their flint implements and hunted the bison and woolly rhinoceros; their implements have been found in the Bourne and Test valleys, at Bournemouth, Southampton and elsewhere. After the separation of Britain from the continent men of the New Stone Age were more domesticated – grew crops, made pottery, wove cloth and kept animals, and buried their burnt dead in orderly and reverent fashion in long mounds or tumuli. There are many such in the county. They lived in small round huts, the floors of which were sunk some feet into the ground, and a group of them was protected by an enclosing bank. The round barrows of the Bronze Age men, Goidels or Celts from the continent, who succeeded are more numerous, and their bronze ornaments – bracelets, rings, torques etc. – have been found at Ropley, Winchester, St Mary Bourne, and in the New Forest. Then followed the Brythons, men of the Early Iron Age, who in different waves, for about 500 years, peopled the county and built camps and round barrows on the hills, e.g. Old Winchester and St Catherine's Hills, and on lower ground as at Silchester. Such camps of refuge are never far to seek on the downs: at ran-

dom one thinks of Winklebury (near Basingstoke), Old Winchester Hill, Bury Hill (Andover), Ladle Hill and Beacon Hill, Tidbury, Norbury and Buckland Rings, and Hengistbury Head. Their cultivation terraces on Down slopes are to be seen in many places as at St Mary Bourne, and on Ladle and Beacon Hills. Of their tracks or roadways that from Basingstoke by Beacon Hill to Walbury is a sample which can still be traced most of the way; as can also the E.-W. route from Farnham to Salisbury Plain, called the Harroway. Early Iron Age tumuli are numerous, especially in the New Forest, such as Lugden Barrow.

From their conquest of Britain in and after A.D. 43 the Romans left a strong impress on Hants and Wight. Most permanent have been the great roads radiating chiefly from two centres, Winchester and Silchester. Hants is exceptionally well supplied with these: two of them, the 'Portway' from Silchester to Old Sarum and the road from Winchester to Cirencester cross each other near Andover. The best-known example of a Roman-British country town in England is that of Silchester. There was a strong coast-defence fort at Portchester, and another at Carisbrooke, recently identified under the Norman Carisbrooke Castle. Very big hoards of Roman coins were found in Woolmer Forest: Roman houses, 'villas', have been dug out in many places – Abbots Ann (near Andover), N. Warnborough, Woodshot (near Medstead), Bramdean, Thruxton, Itchen Abbas, King's Worthy, Havant, Brading, Cowes, Carisbrooke, and Newport. This is only a short list. Mr Heywood Sumner discovered many Roman pottery kilns in the NW. of the New Forest, a typical product of which was a hard stoneware with grey body and purple glaze, except for colour rather like a ginger-beer bottle. Roman bricks were made e.g. at Rowland's Castle. In short the Roman occupation between A.D. 43 and 410 is very well attested, though the vestiges, alas, for reasons of doubtful economy have with few exceptions, like Brading, been re-buried out of sight.

Evidences, historical and antiquarian, of the Saxon period are all-pervading. Winchester, capital of Wessex after 519, is the chief depository. King Alfred is there a great name. Winchester and Southampton and Odiham had Saxon castles. Studded over the county are market-towns (e.g. Andover), manors (Kingsclere), and churches (Headbourne Worthy) which date before the Norman Conquest. The sites of trees which stood as boundaries or 'Marks' of Hundreds still survive in names, sometimes in trees often re-planted. In the Meon valley and in Wight are plentiful reminders of the Jutish settlement of these districts as well as of Kent. At Christchurch we hear of its capture by Ethelwold and of the establishment of a pre-Conquest priory. The West Saxons made a thorough settlement of the Southampton peninsula. At Whitchurch is a stone inscribed to Frithburga, and on Arretton Down (I.W.) Saxon burials were found, and various relics at Micheldever; and have we not the beautiful Winchester enamelled bowl found in 1930 in a burial at Oliver Cromwell's battery? A very large proportion of Hants place-names is Saxon: thus, arriving at Goodworth Clatford we are led to think back to the time when Saxon Goda cultivated a farm which he had, if possible, to clear and keep clear of burdocks. At any of the -worthies, -bournes or -hams we seem to breathe a Saxon atmosphere. At no fewer than fourteen churches is seen the work of Saxon builders, in pilasters or long-and-short work and in other indications, e.g. Breamore, Hambledon, Headbourne Worthy, Hinton Ampner, Titchfield, Tichborne, and Romsey with its two Saxon roods. Others there were at the three Candovers, but they have been utterly destroyed.

Of the Norman rule, too, Hants is singularly rich in reminders: we are seldom far away from a church with suggestive and pleasing Norman remains. The names of bishops and other henchmen of the Conqueror are continually cropping up. Here again Winchester, Norman co-capital with London, takes the lead with a Norman castle

and the splendid work surviving in the Cathedral. Romsey Abbey, Christchurch Priory, Portchester Priory, the Hospital of St Cross have a great deal to show, and many churches something – an arch, a tower, or a font. There exists part of a Norman house at Southampton. Examples are Bonchurch, Niton, Shalfleet, and Carisbrooke in Wight, and Sydmonton, Litchfield, Alton, Crondall, Compton, Longparish, Kingsclere, Medstead, and Southampton (St Michael's): a complete list would be a long one. Transitional Norman is seen, e.g. at Hurstbourne Tarrant, St Lawrence (I.W.), Hurstbourne Priors, Boldre, Herriard, Bentworth, and Long Sutton.

For 13th-cent. work go to Winchester Cathedral, Beaulieu, Pamber, Cheriton, or Romsey; for 14th cent. the nave arcades at Odiham and Fordingbridge; for 15th cent., Winchester nave, Winchester College, and Christchurch choir. We have wall paintings at Hurstbourne Tarrant, good and early brasses and Jacobean pulpits in many places, and 13th-cent. effigies, e.g. at Romsey and St Mary Bourne. Among Norman castles are those of Carisbrooke, Southampton, Odiham, and Woodgarston.

To medieval times we are taken back by the Pilgrims' Way between Winchester and Farnham, though in places, *pace* Hilaire Belloc, the main route is dubious. Founded at different dates, a number of religious houses existed beside those mentioned. Cistercian nuns at Hartley Row; Quarr Abbey, Carisbrooke Priory, and Newport (I.W.); Hyde (at Winchester), and at Beaulieu, Pamber, Netley, Titchfield, Portchester, and Southwick. In all the story of destruction and robbery at the Dissolution is almost uniform. Reminders of kings are everywhere: the death of William Rufus in Canterton Glen, Tyrrell's Ford, the ubiquitous hunting of John, as at Kingsclere and in the New Forest, and the siege of Odiham Castle. Here and there we encounter quaint medieval land-tenures, as at Sherfield-on-Loddon, and the great

vogue of pious pilgrimages to St Swithun and St Thomas. French wars are recalled by ravages on Southampton, Newport, and Yarmouth. There are Henry VIII castles at Cowes, Yarmouth, Southsea, and Calshot; and medieval hospitals are found at Winchester, Basingstoke, Southampton, and Portsmouth. The Pilgrim Fathers sailed for America from Southampton. The Civil War has left many a scar on the county: the famous siege of Basing House, the stand of Col. Boles in Alton church, the capture of Winchester by Cromwell, the defeat of the Royalists at Cheriton, the imprisonment of Charles I and his daughter at Carisbrooke.

Ringwood has reminiscences of the misguided Monmouth and Judge Jeffreys, Portchester Castle of the Napoleonic wars when thousands of war prisoners were interned there. Wellington was M.P. for Newport, and Stratfield Saye and its monument are visible reminders of the great victor of Waterloo. Netley Hospital carries us back to the Crimean War. Finally there are the still shattered centres of Southampton and Portsmouth which bring the story up to date.

Here and there as we go about the county we hear of old industries now mainly defunct. Silk was manufactured at Whitchurch and Overton, cloth at Winchester and Alton; early shipbuilding was carried on in Beaulieu River and the Hamble, and at Portsmouth and Southampton. Paper for Bank of England notes was, and is, made at Laverstoke: woollen gloves are still made at Ringwood. Tradition tells of smuggling activities in many places, especially the New Forest. Pleasant old inns, some reminiscent of coaching days, are many, e.g. at Overton, the *Swan* at Alton, and the *George* at Odiham.

In the field of sport outstanding features were the famous Wyne Hunt, with headquarters N. of Basingstoke, and the Hambledon Hunt. Hambledon, of course, is foremost in cricket annals, and in lesser degree there are cricket associations at West Meon, where lived Thos. Lord, proprietor of

Lord's cricket ground, Alton with James Burt and Alresford with Taylor. Yachting has long flourished at Cowes, Lyminster, Bursledon, and elsewhere. Museums of local antiquities are at Winchester (City and Westgate), Basingstoke, Southampton, Alton, and Reading for Silchester remains.

And let us now recall, if not praise, famous men and women of, or connected with Hampshire. From distant Alfred, St Swithun, and William of Wykeham we descend to more modern times, with no attempt to keep chronological order. Jane Austen we encounter at Steventon, Chawton, and Winchester, and Charles Kingsley at Hurstbourne Priors, or with his fishing rod on the banks of Itchen. Religious men are George Whitefield, once of Dummer, and Isaac Watts of Southampton. Izaak Walton we locate troutng at Droxford, and Dame Alice Lisle, victim of Jeffreys, at Moyle's Court; a naval hero, Lord Rodney, at Alresford, Lord Palmerston at Romsey, the Iron Duke at Stratfield Saye, and the painters Millais and Leighton at Lyndhurst. The poet Wither was rector of Benworth, Charles Kingsley of Eversley, Sir Wm. Davenant a prisoner at Carisbrooke, and Sir Walter Scott sojourned and wrote at Holmsley. Birds of a feather are the two famous nature writers, White of Selborne and Gilpin of Boldre. Mary Russell Mitford we meet at Alresford, John Keble at Hursley, R. L. Stevenson working out *Jekyll and Hyde* at Bournemouth, Charlotte M. Yonge at Otterbourne, Alexander Pope at Twyford, and Alfred Tennyson at Farringford. Nelson will always be associated with Portsmouth, where the 'Victory' is preserved, and Dickens was born there in 1812. Truly a goodly, if incomplete list for one county. Last, the great Queen Victoria lived and died at Osborne.

So this little guide to Hants covers a great variety of interests – ages, places, men and women, and the works by which we know them. *Quicquid agunt homines nostri farrago libelli* (Whatever men do is the hot-pot of our booklet).



## HANTS

### Route 1. – Round from Andover

ANDOVER – FOXCOTT – WILDHERN – UPTON –  
IBTHORPE – HURSTBOURNE TARRANT – ST MARY  
BOURNE – HURSTBOURNE PRIORS – LONGPARISH –  
FULLERTON – GOODWORTH CLATFORD – UPPER  
CLATFORD – WEYHILL

WE begin in the NW. of the county with the district round **ANDOVER** (*Star and Garter II*), by the river Anton and almost surrounded by chalk downs. The name of the town means Ann or Anton water. Incorporated as a municipal borough under King John, Andover has now a mayor, aldermen, and councillors, and is important agriculturally: like Basingstoke the town had a market based on immemorial custom from well back into Saxon times. For about three centuries it had two M.P.s, but the remaining one was lost in 1885. The Town Hall was built in 1825. The old church was demolished and a new church (St Mary), built in 1840 in 13th-cent. style at the expense of a Headmaster of Winchester, the former one having become the property of Winchester College in 1414. A Norman doorway from the old church now forms a gateway to the churchyard in which is an old wall, sole remnant of a monks' priory. Two Roman roads cross each other almost at right angles near the town, i.e. close to E. Anton, about 2 m. away a little E. of N. One is the 'Portway' from Silchester to Old Sarum (NE.–SW.), the other from Winchester to Cirencester (SE.–NW.). This crossing accounts for the early importance of Andover market.

Near (S. of) the 'Portway' is a linear earthwork called the Devil's Ditch, and SW. of the town is an Early Iron Age

camp on Bury Hill. An indecisive battle was fought W. of the town (1016) between Edmund, son of Ethelred, and Cnut, chosen at Southampton as King of Wessex. Men of Andover, as of Basingstoke, Kingsclere, Alton, and of the other Hampshire manors held by Harold, were no doubt sent to his support at the battle of Hastings. Andover was one of the most extensive manors. It was at Andover in 1688 that James II, retreating before William of Orange, had supper with Prince George of Denmark and the Duke of Ormonde. After the meal his guests rode off to join the Prince of Orange. All this history would hardly be suspected by anyone who judged solely from Andover's modern brick villas. The Romans certainly settled freely in the neighbourhood, as is proved by the long list of remains, and especially by villas found at Abbots Ann (S.) and Thruxton (N.), both near the Portway to the W. In Saxon days the susceptible King Edgar had amatory adventures in the town. Quite a list of monarchs have stayed here: John, Henry VII, James I, Charles I, James II (as related above), and George III. For old-style inns look in at the yards of the *Angel* and the *George*. Andover is an excellent centre for the motorist: some eleven roads come in from all directions. But the pedestrian has a wealth of winding lanes by which he can get access to places of interest on the surrounding downs, especially the high range to the N., where Walbury Camp – just over the Berkshire border – rises to a height of 960 ft. We will take samples of the picturesque country around both by motor and on foot.

Take the road out NW. across the railway by the Junction and across the river Anton, then r. and l. to **Foxcott**, where the church, rebuilt in 1855, was later removed to Charlton, nearer Andover, leaving only the tower at Foxcott. Crossing our original road we make next for the hamlet of Wildhern, after crossing the line of the Winchester–Cirencester Roman road. We then begin to mount the down,

well over 600 ft and then run down to grey-roofed **Upton** in a narrow dry valley. This is a little bit of the Hampshire wild. A short run down the valley SE. brings you to *Ibthorpe* in its picturesque hollow, with half-timbered old houses which display brick nogging, thatched roofs, and overhanging storeys. Jane Austen stayed here with her friends, the Lloyds, and there appears to have been little change in the surroundings of her time. This little corner of the world certainly has a smile for us with its scented gardens and surprising nooks and corners. The inhabitants possess (or possessed till recently) the unusual privilege of being lords of their own manor.

**Hurstbourne Tarrant** is at the cross-roads at the top of the Bourne rivulet. The name was originally Hysse-burna, stream with winding water-plants. It belonged by gift of Henry III to the abbess of Tarrant Abbey in Dorset. The largest village we have yet encountered, it is both quaint and beautifully situated, with the trees of Doles Wood on the hill SW. If you can pause for the church (St Peter), note the S. doorway of Trans. Norman style (c. 1203), the wooden W. tower and shingled spire and, inside, remains of 13th-cent. wall paintings: A Wheel of the Seven Deadly Sins, and The Three Dead and Three Living. Under the yew in the yard is buried Joseph Blunt, a philanthropist friend of Cobbett. Some thousand years ago King Alfred in his will left Hurstbourne (with Alton and Bishop's Sutton) to his eldest son. By a Saxon custom Hurstbourne Tarrant, Basingstoke, and Kingsclere were together obliged to provide annually entertainment for the king, for one day. Alas, the May festivities of the Hurstbourne Revel have ceased to function, but the *St George and Dragon* inn is some compensation. In Blagdon Copse was found the burial place of an important Belgic person, of the early 1st cent. B.C.; and at Hurstbourne station, many years ago, a British village and gold coin.

Follow the road SE. and the Bourne river by Stoke to St

Mary Bourne. **Stoke**, as commonly with settlements by streams and marshes, denotes a footbridge or artificial passage-way for crossing: there is a cross-road from Andover to Binley and Crux Easton. **St Mary Bourne** is on the line of the Roman Portway from Silchester to Salisbury, which a short m. W. is in use as a modern road for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. There is a Norman chancel arch in the church, the nave being c. end of 12th cent. See in the S. aisle a 14th-cent. effigy of a knight, cross-legged, probably a Crusader of the d'Andeli family; and a good square Norman font of black marble from Tournai in Belgium (cf. Winchester Cathedral). Up on the hillside you may see the lines of ancient cultivation terraces which may date to pre-Roman or Roman times. Pit dwellings and stone-age implements have been found in the valley. In the village, rubbing shoulders with modern red-brick structures, remain timber-framed homes of the 17th cent.; long may they resist encroachment up the valley! There is a good *History of St Mary Bourne* by Dr Joseph Stevens.

Passing the Basingstoke-Andover railway line, in about 3 m. we come to **Hurstbourne Priors** on the main road, a little way beyond which the Bourne joins the river Test. To the SW. are the remains of a once much more extensive Harewood Forest. 'Priors' denotes that the manor once belonged to the monks of St Swithun's priory in Winchester. Before reaching the village you pass (1.) Hurstbourne Park, the former seat of the Earls of Portsmouth, where the Bourne expands into a long narrow lake. The Park is well wooded, but Charles Kingsley was rather carried away by enthusiasm when he called it 'the finest park in the S. of England'. We shall see why when we come to Lord Carnarvon's Highclere Park. The present Jacobean-style house, successor to one built in 1785, dates from c. 1880. The church on the 1. of the road, rebuilt 1870, retains from the old church a Norman W. doorway, chancel arch, and circular font. In the churchyard is a large yew. The little Common opposite the

park is all that remains after the enclosure in 1787 of 778 acres.

We now turn SW. along a broad stretch of the Test to pretty **Longparish**, where the charming hostelry, the *Plough (II)*, offers a welcome. In St Nicholas church, well restored, the nave arcades date c. 1200, and the W. tower is good 15th-cent. work. By the pulpit is an hour-glass in going order: what remains of the stocks are by the lych-gate. Here is a reach of river scenery which should not be missed: if you can't do it now, note it for another time. At Middleton turn l. and across the river l. again, and so along the river to Tufton and Whitchurch. Longparish lost 760 acres of common in 1804: Bransbury Common, a little farther along the road, is presumably a survival. Here the outskirts of Harewood Forest are to the r., and across it and the road at Bransbury is the line of the Winchester–Cirencester Roman road, surviving in a drive NW. Woods are notoriously places for remains of Roman roads.

**Wherwell** is our next stopping place. Its name signifies cauldron or bubbling springs. Long before the Norman Conquest an abbey for Benedictine nuns was founded here by Elfrida, widow of King Edgar (c. 986), to expiate her share in the murder of her first husband, Ethelwulf, and of King Edward, her son-in-law. She was buried here, 1002. At the suppression the property passed to Thos. West, Lord de la Warr. Its site is close S. of the parish church (rebuilt 1858 but containing a 15th cent. nun's effigy and other relics from the Priory). Parts of the house called The Priory seem to have belonged to the abbey. The village is of great beauty, with thatched and timbered cottages. At **Chilbolton** (S.) the trout and grayling of the Test are highly prized. In 1939 £1,500 was asked for the fishing rights for one rod for 4½ m. from one bank, the fishing being restricted to six rods.

We cross the river Anton at **Fullerton** (the tun of the bird-catchers). Take the road r. and r. again along the Anton to

**Goodworth** (or Lower) **Clatford**. Goodworth was probably the original name of the place (Goda's farm): Clatford = ford where burdock grew. See the nave of the church, where the S. arcade has early Norman pillars to 13th-cent. arches, and the N. arcade later Norman work. Norman too is the square-bowled font. **Upper Clatford** has Bury Hill with its 'camp' to the W. This is a fortress with two high banks enclosing  $11\frac{1}{2}$  acres, with an annexe of another  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres: it was probably taken over by the Belgae. Opposite, 1 m. due N. across the valley of the Ann, is Bagsbury Camp, a large one-banked work of 45 acres, probably dating 300–250 B.C. In the church of Upper Clatford the chancel and nave are divided by two pointed arches with a big pier between. In the 17th cent. the chancel was widened, and the two N. arcade bays were removed to this unusual position. The stream is here bridged for a road coming from Abbots Ann to Andover. It is pleasant to pause by the clear stream and its shallow weir, the little church and some shapely trees. The earthworks on Bury Hill are easily reached, but the bank and ditch are obscured by undergrowth and fir trees. In less than a mile we are back in Andover.

On the Amesbury road 3 m. W. of Andover is **Weyhill**, i.e. temple hill. Here is held a celebrated agricultural fair annually from Oct. 10–13th. It is at least six centuries old, probably much older, as no less than eight prehistoric drove-tracks converge there. Horses, hops, and cheese are brought, but perhaps the most important commodity is (or was) sheep, especially from the Wiltshire Downs. But the fair is on the wane, and in 1938 barely half a day's business was done. Readers of W. H. Hudson's *A Shepherd's Life* will remember that it was at this fair that shepherd Mat Titt lost his dog Dyke, which found its way home after a full year. Here also Hardy's future Mayor of Casterbridge sold his wife. 'At Wy and Winchester I went to the fair,' says Piers Plowman.

**Route 2. – Walk N. of Andover**

**Andover**, see R. 1. Go out by the N. road as if for Hurstbourne Tarrant, and avoiding the first r., take the second r., and after crossing the railway keep along a road on the line of the Winchester–Cirencester Roman road, which in a few hundred yards crosses the line of the Portway. Then shortly take lane r. to E. Anton, through which a path leads NE. to Smannell. Turn l. by lane to Little London, and then bear l. (NW.) on to the Hurstbourne Tarrant road, which cross and very shortly take path l. across the shoulder of a hill to Wildhern (? waste corner) on the Andover–Upton road. Proceed l. across the Roman road, here in modern use, and bear round S. to **Hatherden** (hawthorn valley), where there is an attractive inn and a new little church. Near the latter turn l. by a path back on to the Roman road, and at the point where five ways meet take a path in the angle of the southern two which leaves **Knights Enham** (a lamb-breeding place) on the l. This path holds on across a road to the Anton and nearly into Andover. This is an easy quiet round over the lower spurs of the Downs.

### Route 3. – W. of Basingstoke

BASINGSTOKE AND BASING – WOLVERTON – KINGS-  
CLERE – BURGHCLERE – SYDMONTON – HIGHCLERE –  
LITCHFIELD – WHITCHURCH – TIDBURY RING –  
MICHELDEVER – DUMMER – BASINGSTOKE

**BASINGSTOKE** (*Red Lion II*) derives its chief importance from its railway junction and its fine set of seven radiating roads, several of which bifurcate a little out of the town. It has long been a busy place agriculturally, and now industrial firms are beginning to realize its transport facilities. On the E., from London, it is now by-passed on to the Winchester road. Its best friends could hardly claim that it is either a convenient or picturesque place, yet both it and its neighbour 2 m. E., Old Basing, are interesting historically. The latter is probably the older, as the name Basingstoke denotes the place belonging to Basing, the people of Basa. Basingstoke, however, is an ancient borough and market-town, and was one of the manors of Harold before the Conquest. Under Edward I and Edward III it sent members to Parliament; under James I it was incorporated. There is nothing left, except in history, of the hospital of St John Baptist, enlarged by a native of the town, Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester and founder of Merton College, Oxford: this was in the first half of the 13th cent. The church of St Michael is early 16th cent.; the E. end of it was damaged by a German bomb during the winter of 1940–1. The interesting ruins of the old chapel of the Holy Ghost are N. of the town, up the Aldermaston road past the railway and on the r. (E.) side. The Guild of the Holy Ghost was founded (1525) by Bishop Fox of Winchester and Lord Sandys. You enter what looks like a modern cemetery, but probably dates back to King John. It is well worth while to walk through to the



hexagonal tower and remains of the S. and E. walls of the chapel, good work of the late Perp. period. On the suppression in 1550 the buildings were used for some time as a school. In New Street, over the Public Library, is a museum, containing among other antiquities a capital collection of local flint implements (open 2-9, or apply to Mr G. W. Willis, jeweller, Wote Street, E. side of Town Hall).

**BASING**, one of the most historic sites in Hants, should not be missed. It is at the headwaters of the river Loddon, and the now disused Basingstoke canal passes by the walls of the famous Basing House. The church (St Mary) was in Norman days cruciform, as witness the N. and S. arches of the central tower. The nave aisles are 15th cent. See in the chancel arcades several Paulet tombs from 1488 to 1576, and in the S. chapel monuments of six Dukes of Bolton: that of the sixth Duke by Flaxman. There is a good 15th-cent. font. Basing House, which stood behind the walls fronting on the canal, was the scene of the famous two-year siege by Cromwell's forces, the defence being stoutly maintained by John Paulet, fifth Marquess of Winchester. The vast house had been erected on the site of a Norman castle, itself in an ancient British earthwork, by the first Marquess (d. 1572). The Norman castle was the stronghold of the de Ports and the St Johns. The gallant garrison held out from July 1643 to Oct. 1645 when Cromwell himself arrived with six additional regiments. The life of the Marquess was spared; some 2000 lives had been lost by the attackers. Apart from portions of the wall, the 16th-cent. brickwork N. gatehouse alone remains, for the house was burnt and destroyed. The story of this memorable siege has often been told, but a good account is in W. T. Warren's *The Great Siege of Basing House*, 4d., normally sold on the site.

After the Restoration Charles, son of the loyal Marquess, was created Duke of Bolton. The present Lord Bolton has done for Basing House what the National Trust has done for

many of England's historic places; and it is open to the public. After careful excavation he has preserved everything of interest. The existing earthworks comprise the circular rampart of the citadel, 80 yds diam., with ditch 35 ft below, the slope of which is very steep indeed. The bailey to the N. has a ditch 25 ft deep. S. of the citadel are bank and ditch and remains of three bastions thrown up by Cromwell for the final assault. On the r. of the entrance the butler's pantry, guard-room staircase, and domestic buildings occupy the circle against the earthworks which surround the house. Some of the basements exposed were the garrison buildings. One of the courtyards contains a Norman and a Tudor well. The dimensions of the great hall, c. 80 ft by 40 ft, are exposed, and beneath it were cellars reached by a flight of steps. A brick-lined subterranean drain, nearly 100 yds long, runs out from the citadel beneath both rampart and ditch on the W. side, with entrance near the Museum, in which there is much of great interest, especially fragments of very fine stone carvings, cannon balls and bullets, and a great variety of pottery. The unique circular dovecote, built under Henry VIII for 500 nests, has in its centre a revolving ladder used to take the birds. Opposite the house on the other side of the canal is the red-brick barn with fine kingpost roof.

**Winklebury Camp** is a big one-bank plateau fort NW. of Basingstoke, close E. of the Winchester-Silchester Roman road where it runs NNE. as a modern road from Worting. Called Battledown, it was a strategic point for the pre-Roman Belgae, dominating the Harroway where it crossed their road from Winchester to Silchester. Cromwell, it is said, used it as a look-out station before his final assault of Basing. It is now private property.

Basingstoke lies on the S. edge of the broad stretch of clay and forest land which is drained by the rivers Loddon and Kennet and stretches N. to Reading. The chalk downs roll away NW., SW., and SE., and hence the town is a fine

centre for runs into varied scenery, and the flat land N., containing Silchester and Stratfield Saye, is by no means to be neglected.

Going out NE. under the railway fork l. for Kingsclere on the Newbury road, a good road over high ground. About 4 m. along the road, on the r. up a farm road, are striking remains of the early Norman mount-and-court castle of **Woodgarston**. A request at the farmhouse to view the lofty mound and its deep surrounding moat would no doubt be granted. At some 550 ft it was a splendid look-out NE. over the wooded country towards Silchester. The turning opposite leads to the quiet village of **Wootton St Lawrence**, where the church has a good Norman S. door, and a Norman N. arcade of three bays. In the sanctuary (S.) is a white marble effigy, in plate armour, of Thos. Hook, Bart., of Somerset (1677), and in S. aisle monuments to Wm. Wither of Manydown (1755) and other Withers. Just before reaching Kingsclere, about 5 m. along the road, is **Wolverton** church, which stands in a lonely situation a short distance to the N. of the road. It is a perfect red-brick church in the classical style of 1717 with a massive tower. It retains the 15th-cent. nave roof of its predecessor. The pews, pulpit, and reredos are all good 18th-cent. work.

**Kingsclere** (*Crown II*), marks the beginning of a fine stretch along the N. escarpment of the Downs of NW. Hants. The second syllable of the name, as in Burghclere and Highclere, probably denotes not a clearing, but a stream, formerly called Clere, but now Enborne. In the neighbourhood, at Freemantle Manor, King John – he was there no less than thirty-seven times – and other kings had a very favourite hunting lodge. The fine big cruciform church with central tower is of Norman date. Note the Norman arch of the W. doorway, the built-up doorway on the N. side of the nave, the Jacobean pulpit, and Purbeck-marble font. In the S. chapel is an alabaster monument to Sir H. Kingsmill (d.

1625) and his wife, who was a widow for 48 years. Encaustic tiles of 13th and 14th cent. are on the S. wall of the S. chapel. The list of rectors is from 1246. The small town has an old-world irregular aspect, and indeed its history goes well back into Saxon days when it was a royal manor. From William I onwards it passed into the hands of ecclesiastical owners, and at the Dissolution to Wriothlesley. Henry III granted its market; a fair was held in the market-place till about a century ago. Old cottages and rustic folk suggest an elusive antiquity of which no one has yet written the history. 'The Dell', l. (S.) of the road as you come into Kingsclere, is a very old and extensive chalk pit, the chalk of which was no doubt dug for marling the land according to the old system of agriculture. Till quite recently a constable for the Hundred was chosen at Kingsclere, as was ordered by the Statute of Winchester in 1285.

Here we leave the Newbury road and turn W. for Sydmonton, with the downs above us on the l.: **Ladle Hill** (c. 770 ft) with a camp on top. Its defences are curiously broken into short pieces by fourteen gaps; it is suggested that it is an Early Iron Age fort, not completed, but intended to resist the advance of the Belgae. In the gap runs the Winchester-Newbury road, and on the other side of it is **Beacon Hill**, also with its camp, about 860 ft. This can be climbed easily: approach by the lane W. of the main road to the golf links, where a car can be parked. Walk up the grass path among yellow rock-roses. There is a magnificent view from the top all round except for the short space where Sidown Hill rises. The high tower of Highclere Castle stands up above the park trees. On the edge of the S. side of the hill is a small turfed mound within an iron fence which marks the unnamed grave of the late Lord Carnarvon, with and for whom the late Mr Howard Carter found and investigated the famous tomb of Tutankhamen. The gate of the camp was reached up the SW. ridge. On the highest point is a triangular pillar of the

Ordnance Survey. A beacon here took up the signal from the Wiltshire Beacon Hill on the W., and was seen as far N. as the Chilterns. As a hill-fort this is perhaps the most perfect in Hants: the slopes are steep, 15 acres of the hill crest are enclosed, bank and ditch are well preserved. At the entrance note that the incurved flanking banks are returned some 20 ft into the area; there were probably three successive gates. Inside the area are indications of ancient hut circles and of Tudor beacon fires. The camp dates probably 450–300 B.C., and was later strengthened either by or against the Belgae.

It is worth while to look into old **Burghclere** church, where there is a N. Norman door with billet moulding, and an E.E. W. door. The nave dates c. 1100. On the W. wall of the sanctuary are seven Herbert memorials (1808 et seq.) grouped together. Burghclere (the *burg* refers to either or both of the nearby camps) lies in the only natural pass for many miles from Berks into Hants: as late as the Domesday Survey toll for the road was taken at Burghclere. In the Oratory of All Souls are some remarkable, if provocative, mural paintings (1927–33) by Stanley Spencer. If you go up either Ladle or Beacon Hill keep an eye open for the ancient banks of small communal fields on the slopes.

We come back on the Whitchurch road past the noble height of Sidown (broad down) Hill, facing the very impressive range of silent, smooth-turfed eminences. At **Sydmon-ton** the church is new, but retains a Norman doorway and E. tower arch from its predecessor. On the main road again turn N. where, S. of Whitway, is the entrance to **Highclere** Park with its Castle. The next l. takes you through a bracken-bordered road, near Milford Lake (l.), one of the three lakes in the park. Turning l. past Highclere Street, you will have roughly compassed this delightful domain. The old church used to stand in the park near the Castle, but it was demolished in 1870, and a new one built outside from designs of

Sir Gilbert Scott. The Castle (Earl of Carnarvon) stands high in the finest park of S. England, 13 m. in circumference. There is a brilliant variety of trees – old oaks, beeches, Scots firs, banks of rhododendrons and azaleas: everywhere scenes of varied beauty. Belonging to the Bishops of Winchester, this property passed to the Crown under Edward VI, and then to the Fitzwilliam and other families, and finally to the Herberts, Earls of Carnarvon. The Castle was rebuilt in Jacobean style from designs of Sir Charles Barry, the architect who designed the Houses of Parliament.

While at Highclere we cannot resist the temptation to make by East and West Woodhay for a bit of territory now added to Berks, comprising the little lost village of Combe, Walbury Camp, and Inkpen Beacon, the highest chalk in England (over 1000 ft). On the summit is one of the few surviving gibbets in England. **Walbury Camp**, with an area of c. 82 acres, is indeed partly in Hants, and larger than any in the county. Its centre is 959 ft high. Its associated group of five round barrows of the Bronze Age suggest this dating for the camp. Its entrances are NE. and SE., and the ridge-way coming from Winklebury Camp, near Basingstoke, runs between them and formed the old county boundary.

Back at Burghclere go S. on the main road and passing under Beacon Hill you will note the well-known **Seven Barrows**, some on the l. and some on the r. of the road. Besides this group there are still two other groups of seven existing, W. of Stockbridge and at S. Tidworth. Before the enclosure of commons, there were seven more on the common SW. of Basingstoke. The Litchfield barrows are large round burial-mounds, 8–10 ft high, on a high point of an E.–W. track even then a through route. The bodies were burnt, and with them and charcoal were found flint implements and a bronze pin. This pre-Roman E.–W. track was from Basingstoke by Hannington, Beacon Hill, Walbury Camp etc., and it was in relation to it that the barrows were grouped, not to the Whit-

church road. Four barrows are seen W. of this road, two E., and one is cut off by the railway. The road winds with the valley through **Litchfield**, which lies almost hidden. The church is Norm. with remains of vaulting in the chancel, and a very rough font. Here as at Burghclere a road toll was levied in Domesday times. About 1 m. S. where the road runs straight, at the beginning of a wood on the r. (W.), the Roman Portway crosses our road diagonally and proceeds through the wood to St Mary Bourne. So gradually down the slope to **Whitchurch**, with its four main cross-roads, and railways following them: a good centre therefore for the tourist. These roads connecting Winchester with Newbury and Oxford, London with Salisbury and Exeter, made Whitchurch an important place also in coaching days. It lost its two M.P.s in 1832. Besides being a market town, it was till fairly recently engaged in the manufacture of silk. The much restored church (All Hallows) has a massive tower and high spire. It contains recumbent effigies and a brass to the Brook family and a 17th-cent. painting illustrating the commandments. Especially worthy of attention is the 15th-cent. oak casing to newel stairs in the NW. angle of the tower; and an Anglo-Saxon Latin-inscribed stone: 'Here lies the body of Frithburga buried in peace.' For the rest, there is an old coaching inn (*White Hart II*) at the cross-roads, and NE. is Lynch Hill which shows the lynchet boundaries of early ploughed fields. The district had 1683 acres of common land enclosed in 1798. Famous for its trout is the river Test, which is crossed by a five-arch bridge. There is a picturesque old mill. One m. to the S. of the town is **Tufton** church, in which is a wall-painting of St Christopher and some 13th-cent. windows.

It is c. 4 m. S. to Bullington Cross, but just before it is reached on a hill on the r. is **Tidbury Ring**, c. 370 ft. It is an Early Iron Age camp, but had been occupied in Roman times, as Canon A. B. Milner of Winchester proved by exca-

vation some few years ago. It is a plateau fort of c. 13 acres, nearly circular. Though not high, it commands views of no fewer than eleven other camps.

Turning l. at Bullington Cross you will see c.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. SE. a hill with another camp atop. About half-way along this road towards the *Wheatsheaf* we get up on to high ground and cross the railway near Micheldever station, one of the high points of the line. If you have time to run down by the railway to **Micheldever**, you can come back to the *Wheatsheaf* by the Winchester–Basingstoke road. Micheldever is a stream name = the great-water, with the same second element as Andover and Candover. The many springs here feed a stream which flows into the Test at Bransbury. The church is something of a curiosity, for an octagonal brick nave was built in 1806, after a fire, by Sir Francis Baring in between the old tower of 1527 and the chancel. On the S. side of the latter is Flaxman's monument to Lady Frances Baring (1804). Micheldever, as its name implies, is very ancient, and Saxon relics have been found nearby. Norsbury Ring is a pre-Roman camp, and I have seen many Roman indications in an arable field near the village.

Going N. from the *Wheatsheaf* take the first r. for **Dummer**, a place for which it is worth while to loop this loop. The name means 'lake near a hill': the hill is there eastward, but now no signs of a lake. But we have an old-world village and a small old-world church, unrestored. We go in by the W. porch and doorway of the 15th cent. Above us is a balustraded gallery erected under Charles II. N. of the chancel arch is an image niche and a squint, which has its fellow on the S. side. Over the chancel arch is a unique 15th-cent. canopy which once covered the Rood or Crucifix. Among other features note a very old (c. 1400) oak pulpit and brasses of the family of At Moore. Here George Whitefield served his first curacy. Close to the church is the manor-house of the Dummer family, with parts of its walls of the 14th-cent.



At Dummer Clump were discovered in 1888 prehistoric urns for burnt burials, specimens of which may be seen in the museums of Reading and Southampton. In Domesday Dummer manor is mentioned as belonging to one of the King's thanes, one Odo of Winchester: it had three houses in that city. From Dummer we can return to the main road almost exactly at the point where the line of the Winchester-Silchester Roman road leaves the Basingstoke road and makes across fields to the l. As an alternative take a narrow lane E. over the hill to the Candover road, and turn l. over the high ground of Farleigh Wallop, and so by **Cliddesden** (rock valley) into Basingstoke, with a little care in driving.

#### Route 4. – A Round S. of Basingstoke

BASINGSTOKE – HERRIARD – LASHAM – ALTON –  
E. WORLDHAM – BENTWORTH – MEDSTEAD – BIGH-  
TON – NEW ALRESFORD – GODSFIELD – WIELD –  
ITCHEN VALLEY – WINCHESTER (p. 60) – WHITCHURCH  
(R. 3) – LAVERSTOKE – OVERTON – STEVENTON –  
OAKLEY – BASINGSTOKE

OUT of Basingstoke S. and fork l. along the W. side of Hackwood Park, for **Winslade**, the point of which is its pretty situation. The church (r.) was rebuilt about a century ago by Lord Bolton. Two m. farther is **Herriard** (enclosure for heathen worship) with park and church on l. St Mary's has two good samples of Trans. Norman, the S. doorway and chancel arch. In S. wall of nave note 13th- and 15th-cent. windows, and in chancel good lancet windows. An old pew screen of the time of Charles I is now an organ screen. The tower and N. aisle date from 1876. At **Lasham** there is little else than an inn and a church rebuilt in 1868.

So down into the Wey valley at **ALTON** (*Swan II*), which was on the old Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury. 'Alton' means not old town, but town at the source of the river Wey. It is an ancient borough, once returned two M.P.s, and in the 17th and 18th cent. was a commercial centre, 500 persons being engaged in making 'barracan, a coarse kind of camlet'. Hops and iron implements are now local industries; Alton ales are a popular speciality. There are several 16th- and 17th-cent. houses camouflaged by modern fronts: picturesque old inns: Eggar's Grammar School (E.), founded in 1638, has 16th-cent. portions; and there are 17th-cent. almshouses. The very interesting parish church (St Lawrence) to the N. of High Street, retains its Norman central tower, the arch capitals having remarkably

varied and rich carvings which deserve special notice. The War Memorial chapel has several interesting items. For woodwork note roofs, partly 15th cent., a screen, misericord stalls, and a Jacobean pulpit. See also a tablet brass to Christopher Walaston, a servant of Henry VIII and three successors. In the Civil War Col. Boles, holding the town, retreated to the church, where he and eighty royalists were massacred by the Roundheads. The memory of this very gallant fight is kept alive by bullets embedded in S. door and walls, and by a brass tablet to Boles on a pillar of the nave which is a replica of the original in Winchester Cathedral. Alton had its famous cricketer, the very big James Burt of the *Duke's Head*. At Alton is the Curtis Museum, which contains a valuable collection of bygone agricultural implements, the Bignell collection of china, flint implements, Roman pottery, and old views of the town.

About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. SE. of Alton is **East Worldham**, on high ground with magnificent views to the E. towards Hindhead. The church has two fine 13th-cent. doors and contains the tomb of Geoffrey Chaucer's wife. In August 1939 excavation revealed the site of King John's hunting lodge at the top of King John's Hill. A wall of local limestone 40 ft long by 2 ft wide was found, with a sunken fireplace and an oval hearth at its western end. There appears to have been a place for making and repairing hunting equipment. **West Worldham** has a small 13th-cent. church. A glance at the road map will show that Alton is a capital centre for excursions, especially to the SE. (see R. 18).

Turning W., instead of taking the main road to New Alresford, we will go for quiet country more N., round by Bentworth and Medstead. Go back then c.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. on the road by which you came in, and turn l. by a lane to **Bentworth**, a sequestered and charming village. Its 'worth' name shows that it was an early West Saxon settlement, where the land was fenced in round the homesteads of Binta and his folk.

Nearly a thousand acres of its common land was lost to it by enclosure in 1799. Henry I gave the manor to Rouen, whose archbishop once stayed here in the Steward House, still partly surviving in walls of the Manor Farm. At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries Rector Palmes, a blind man, was too good a Protestant for his bishop and was ejected in favour of Stevens, late Abbot of Beaulieu. The Commonwealth poet Wither was another rector of Bentworth. The churchyard is a beautiful God's acre, and the church in spite of restoration is much as it was when Palmes preached there. The Trans. Norman arcades have squat round piers and pointed arches: the chancel arch also is of late 12th cent. Of the next century is the font, but its cover is dated 1605. Among other interesting items are oak seats in S. aisle and a Jacobean chest.

Two m. S. on the edge of the high ground (c. 700 ft) stands **Medstead**. Water is supplied from rain-tanks. The small church has a Norman arcade (N.). It is sad to note that the bungalow growth has encroached on the neighbourhood from Alton way. A valley road takes us down SW. to **Bighton**, a meeting place of several secondary roads. The church (r.) is interesting from its 12th- and 13th-cent. features: e.g. nave arcades (Trans.), square Norman font of Purbeck marble, and a squint. The remains of a Roman villa were found at Woodshot, near by.

**New Alresford** (*Swan II*), pron. Allsford (ford of river Alre which rises about 2 m. E. and running parallel with the Alton-Winchester road makes the big lake on our l. and in a mile or so joins the Itchen). New Alresford – there is an Old Alresford village a little N. – though small, is an ancient and attractive market-town; several big fires over a century or more have wiped out nearly all old buildings. Before William I it belonged to the Bishops of Winchester. After incorporation it had M.P.s like Alton. The lake was dammed by Bishop de Lucy, who designed by means of this reservoir

to make the Itchen navigable from Southampton to Alresford. The dam and causeway have survived over seven centuries. The church, at the top of Broad St, was rebuilt in 15th-cent. style (1897–8), but retains some earlier features: the tower has a medieval lower portion, the upper part being 17th cent. French names on tombstones in the churchyard recall that French prisoners were quartered here in the Napoleonic wars. In Broad Street a tablet on a house tells that Mary Russell Mitford was born there in December 1737. Among other things she wrote: ‘Alresford is, or will be celebrated in history for two things: the first – to speak modestly, is my birth; the second is cricket.’ Taylor of Alresford was a well-known cricketer and member of the Hambledon Club: other names are Bonham, Freemantle, and Dunn. Take the l. at the bottom of the street for a feast of picturesquely quaint houses. One of our greatest naval heroes, Admiral Lord Rodney, lived at Alresford and is buried in Old Alresford church, reached by way of Broad St and the road across the medieval dam.

Some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Alresford to the l. of the road to Wield is **Godsfield** chapel with priest’s upper room at W. end. This is 14th cent. and belonged to the Knights Hospitallers. **Wield** church, 3 m. NE., is Norman and has a fine monument to William Wallop and wife, 1617.

Out of Alresford we choose the r. fork along the Itchen to see the Itchen and Worthy villages: the higher route (l.) joins up with a straight stretch of Roman road, running 4 m. out from Winchester, which, it is thought, was never completed.

**Itchen Stoke** (2 m.) lost its old and interesting church early in the 19th cent. In the present one is a stone to Lady Elizabeth Pawlet (1671), and a brass to Joan Batmanson (1518) preserved from the old. Stoke, as usual in places by rivers, means an artificial causeway or crossing of the water. For a delightful and quiet laze go down towards **Ovington**, and rest near the bridge of a picturesque old mill – every kind of

meadow flower and the quiet flow of the Itchen, here joined by Candover and Alre. A good many of Itchen's trout rose here to the fly of Charles Kingsley. **Itchen Abbas** belonged to the Abbey of St Mary, Winchester (Abbas=Abbess). About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of the village a Roman villa was found in a copse. A tessellated pavement with the head of the goddess Flora was again covered up and when the pavement was re-opened in the early 'twenties it was found to have been destroyed by amateur 'grubbers'. The church was rebuilt in sham Norman in 1863, but the old chancel arch and a doorway were incorporated. On the opposite side of the Itchen is **Avington**, with its park, in the 18th cent. the seat of the Dukes of Buckingham and since 1848 that of the Shelleys. Charles II lived at Avington when his palace at Winchester was building. The church is the finest Georgian specimen in the county and its fittings are all original (1768-71). They are of mahogany, said to have been taken from a Spanish warship. **Easton**, near the S. end of Avington Park, has a good Norman church with an apse.

Returning to the main road, we now have the four **Worthies**. The name Worthy is O.E. for 'homestead enclosure'. **Martyr Worthy** was held by Henri de la Martre in 1201 and has a small Norman church with two good doors, but the apse is modern. **Abbot's Worthy** is but a hamlet and **King's Worthy**, where we join the Roman road from Silchester to Winchester, has an over-restored church (l.). **Headbourne Worthy** ('Hyde-stream') Church (St Swithun) on the r. is 'a gem', said Bishop Wilberforce. Saxon masons built its pilaster strips (N. side of nave and S. of chancel) and 'long and short' quoins. Saxon work, too, is the mutilated stone carving over the W. door, a Rood which was originally, before the W. annexe was built in the 15th cent. to preserve it, outside the church. A stone below the E. window commemorates Joseph Bingham, incumbent of the church and learned author of ten volumes of *Church Beginnings* (*Origines Ecclesiasticae*). An early

brass (1434) to John Kent, a Winchester scholar, is on the N. chancel wall. For **Winchester** see p. 60. We go out NW. by the Roman road for Wherwell and Hurstbourne Priors (R. 1, reverse order) and **Whitchurch**, R. 3.

On the way from Whitchurch to Basingstoke are Laverstoke and Overton. At **Laverstoke** the finely wooded park with lake and river Test and old church (now a mortuary chapel for the Portal family) are 1. There is a fine modern church, with rood and rood-screen. At the paper mill in the village paper for notes of the Bank of England has been made for over two centuries. Its founder was a Huguenot fugitive from France, Henri de Portal, who started at Bere Mill, near Whitchurch, and then extended to Laverstoke. The B. of E. notes were first manufactured here in 1727. **Overton**, i.e. 'tun on the bank of the Test', is nearly at the top of that river. Its ancient status with market, M.P.s and so on, has vanished. Its last boast was that in coaching days it was the end of the first day's stage from London to the W. Many travellers slept there. The stables of the Poyntz Arms, which formerly stood at the corner of the cross-roads on the site of the present schools, accommodated sixty horses for fresh coach teams and posting relays. Distinguished followers of the Vyne hunt (originated in 1790) put up there. At the *White Hart* is a fine Tudor fireplace. Like Andover and Whitchurch it once had a share in the silk industry. The church (St Mary) has Norman pillars; the tower dates from 1908; the chancel is mainly E.E. **Quidhampton** is the name of the old manor-house near the railway station: its queer name means 'home-town where resin was obtained'. A Norman chapel is incorporated with its farm buildings. Along the busy road to Basingstoke, a turn r. brings us in c.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to **Steventon**, a village which 'Janeites' will certainly want to visit, 'though it is less visited than any other of her shrines.' The living was given to George Austen by the Knights, and here Jane was born in 1775, but the house was

demolished during the 19th cent. The unspoilt 13th-cent. church is close to the manor-house. In the chancel is a memorial to brother James, rector for half a century. This was Jane's real home, where she lived for twenty-seven years and wrote her first three novels. The high-lights of her home life were the Basingstoke balls, where she consorted with the Portsmouths and the Dorchesters, the Portals of Laverstoke, the Chutes of the Vyne, and the Terrys of Dummer. At theatricals in the Steventon barn the moving spirit was Mme. de Feulliade, who eventually became Jane's sister-in-law. We return to Jane at Chawton. 'Hampshire must always be the promised land to the Janeite.'

**Oakley** may be visited on the return journey to Basingstoke. Its church contains tombs of the Warham family and a 16-cent. stained glass window to Archbishop Warham, who rebuilt the tower. The font was formerly the base of a churchyard cross. There is a Norman carving built into the tower.



**Route 5. – E. and N. of Basingstoke**  
**(a) E. of Basingstoke**

BASINGSTOKE – SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON – STRATFIELD SAYE – SILCHESTER – HECKFIELD – MATTINGLEY – HARTLEY ROW – FLEET – CRONDALL – LONG SUTTON – S. WARNBOROUGH – UPTON GREY – TUNWORTH – HACKWOOD PARK – BASINGSTOKE

**Basingstoke** (R. 3). Crossing the railway go out by NE. along the Reading road parallel with, but not close to the Loddon, which our road crosses at **Sherfield** (bright open field). The church was thoroughly restored in 1872. On the N. wall of chancel is a brass to Stephen Hadnall (1590), gentleman of the privy chamber to Queen Mary I. The lord of the manor, says Mr D. H. M. Read, held his lands on a quaint tenure, being responsible for keeping order among the king's laundresses! Round the long common and its pond, the village and its geese seem to enjoy peace and prosperity. Having got so near **Stratfield Saye**, we must make a detour round the park; so 2 m. out fork l. The church is near the road (r.), in the park, through which the Loddon expands into a long narrow lake. The village and inn are a little farther on. We shall then turn r., keep just inside the Hants-Berks border, and nearly along the line of the Roman road from Silchester to London, and so round by the Wellington monument to Heckfield. Stratfield Saye (open country on the Street or Roman road, once held by Robt de Say) now spells Wellington. The estate once belonged to the D'Abridecourts, whose brasses can be seen in the church (rebuilt 1784) near the organ. In the S. chapel is a handsome marble monument to Sir Wm Pitt (1636), a later owner of the estate, and r. of it a mural tablet by Flaxman to George Lord Rivers, 1803. There are also busts of the second and

third Dukes. In 1814 the estate was sold to the nation and next year was given to Wellington to be held by him and his successors by payment of a flag to be sent to Windsor on the anniversary of Waterloo. The Wellington monument is a pink granite column with bronze Corinthian capital and base on a tall plinth, surmounted by the figure of the Iron Duke. On the base is the one word WELLINGTON. It stands among pines by the E. gateway, overlooking a heathery common and a stretch of the Reading road. Two principles of this great man stand out: obedience and loyalty to superiors, and 'If you want peace, prepare for war.' While settled here he was a great follower of the Vyne hunt, 'if no great performer in the field.' In early Norman days Stratfield had an iron works, the ore being extracted from the Tertiary beds; and the manor had a house attached to it in Winchester.

**Silchester.** The site of the Roman city of Calleva Atrebatum at Silchester must surely be visited. From the inn at Stratfield Saye turn W. to West End Green, then N. on to a road, where turn l. (W.) along a used part of the great Roman road from London to Bath, and so to the E. gate of the Roman town. From here along the N. side remains a fine specimen of the Roman wall, restored in 1938-9 with great care by the Ministry of Works. It has been decided that there is no public right of vehicles across the site from the E. gate: not that this matters much, because inside the walls there is little to be seen except plenty of Roman material in ploughed fields. It seems a great pity that all that was laid bare during the course of excavation, at intervals, over some fifty years was not kept open, in which case what would have come near to an English Pompeii would have been visible to visitors from all the world. It is all buried again. This is the only big Roman country town which has been thoroughly investigated. You can see the walls and the banks and hollow of the oval amphitheatre (N. of E. gate) just outside the wall, where the variety shows of the period were staged. Of

Silchester remains there is a very good show at the Museum in Reading, and those interested in the Roman-British way of life must go there.

The Romans were not the first on the spot: there remain earthworks of a camp of refuge of the Celtic Atrebates outside the Roman enclosure. The pre-Roman entrenchments of a huge camp of 200 acres comparable with Verulamium can be seen extending along the N. side of the Roman city from the amphitheatre, or from the path which runs SW. in Rampiers Copse. Its plan, like that of Arras in France, and Roman Chichester, was polygonal; the Roman city followed its plan with walls c. 200 yds inside the big British bank. These Celts called the place Calleva; Epillus, son of Commius, had his capital and struck coins there. An entrance to the British fort is opposite the NW. postern of the Roman wall. The British road was 10 ft wide, gravelled, and showed wheel ruts c. 4 ft 8½ in. apart. This was overlaid by a Roman road 20 ft wide. After its destruction the Saxons re-christened it Silchester, 'the Roman camp by the sallow copse'. In the village of Silchester and thereabouts it is called 'The Ruins'. About 100 acres were enclosed by the Roman wall, in front of which was a ditch and behind which was a mound. Roads crossed the town N.-S. and E.-W. Along these grew up the Roman town, with its *basilica* or town hall, and *forum* or market place. In course of time the whole area was planned into quadrangular blocks – called *insulae*, islands – of houses, in chess-board wise. The walls came last. The shape of the place was influenced by the original earthworks. There were four temples, one polygonal, two square (E. of town), and a fourth almost in the centre. There were six gates, those at E. and W. with double portal; N. and S., single-arched: beside these were two posterns, one a little S. of the W. gate, the other near the E. gate leading to the amphitheatre. A little before A.D. 300 some trouble in the province led to the burning down of the basilica and buildings near by. There

was an inferior rebuilding, e.g. of a large inn with big baths attached: the public baths were near the E. gate. The great find was the discovery of a Christian church dating about A.D. 350. Soon after, the Callevans begun to block up their too numerous gates: these and the great extent of wall they found too much to defend. The Saxons appear not to have taken it by assault; it was just abandoned and fell into slow decay. It remained for excavators to explore, beginning with the Rev. J. G. Joyce, rector of Stratfield Saye, who got the consent of the Duke of Wellington. Others followed, till in 1890 the Society of Antiquaries set about the work systematically and carried on for some twenty years without intermission till the whole site was explored and planned. The church, near the site of the E. gate, should certainly be visited. The nave is mainly Dec. and the chancel E.E., while the 15th-cent. belfry is carried on massive oak timbers. Note the good Perp. screen and the 14th-cent. effigy of a lady in the S. aisle. In the churchyard is the grave of one, Julius Caesar, surely an appropriate name for a Silcestrian!

And so we return to **Heckfield** (high field). Notice the many other field names in the district: e.g. Burghfield, Shinfield, Sherfield, Arborfield, Swallowfield – all in flat well-watered country. In the much restored church – opposite a bad bend in the road – is a 15th-cent. chancel arch, and at E. end of N. aisle the mortuary chapel of the Shaw Lefevres, with monument to Viscount Eversley (1888, aged 94), Speaker of the House of Commons for twenty years. In chancel see the kneeling effigy of Henry Tomworthe (1608) of Mattingley. The W. tower of brick and stone is a memorial to John Creswell and wife (c. 1515); under it is a crusading money chest (1200), one of the few remaining in England. Note also a tablet to Neville Chamberlain, prime minister, who died here in 1940. Heckfield has a 'hundred oak'. Boundary trees, of course from time to time replanted, go back to the time of the West Saxon settlements of Hants.

The place belonged in the 13th cent. to the Prior of Merton, and he exercised jurisdiction there.

Now 2 m. SE. by Hound Green to **Mattingley**. Pause to see an exceptional little church (15th cent.) with walls of timber uprights, the intervals between which are filled in diagonally with bricks. Inside the church is divided by timber arches. In the N. porch is preserved an altar cloth dated 1667. It is thought that Bp. Waynflete was instrumental in building this church. After the church turning, take next l. for **Hartley Row**, a place where several roads meet, lying along the Basingstoke–Bagshot road, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Hook. To judge by names this must have been a favourite district for stag hunting – Hartley Wespall, Hartley Wintney, Hartford Bridge. Now people come to live here among the pines. New church, 1870: old church, 1 m. to the S., has a Norman pillar piscina and Georgian box-pews and galleries. From the churchyard there is a good prospect. A little SE. was once a priory of Cistercian nuns. There are just enough remains for the curious who like putting things together: e.g. two large barns, both dating from pre-Reformation days. The site can be made out by the surrounding moat, to fill which a small stream was diverted. It was established before the end of the 12th cent. It lies just N. of the railway.

About 3 m. SE. brings us to **Fleet**, past Elvetham Park (l. where was a Norman church now rebuilt. (Elvetham=swan meadow by the stream, a tributary of Loddon.) Fleet is rapidly becoming a residential place. A little NE. is its big lake which has attracted most of the new houses. The name is O.E. fleot, stream. Here turn S. for Gally Hill and Crookham, going straight on for the steeplechase course and turning r. at Gally Hill and r. again for Crookham. Under Beacon Hill, in front, is Ewshott Camp. Straight over the Odiham–Aldershot road is **Crondall** (chalk hollow) on the N. edge of the high ground, and also of the forest where the Britons held their own for some time against the West Saxons. Cron-

dall was bequeathed by King Alfred to his nephew Ethelm. To SE. is an earthwork, c. 490 ft, wrongly called a Roman entrenchment, and popularly 'Caesar's Camp'. This is approached by road from Hale and a walk across the neck of the plateau. It is a hill-fort, of irregular five-sided shape, at the top of an extremely steep slope. The neck (W.) is defended by a double entrenchment, with the single entrance in the middle. On the N. side the defence was made by scarping the slope, while on the E. side the only defence is the steepness of the edge of the plateau. The county boundary between Hants and Surrey is along the NW. edge and across the middle of the camp. Crondall certainly had its Roman villa. The church (All Saints) is very interesting, of the last years of the 12th cent., Norman and Transitional. See the chevron and dog-tooth mouldings and carved capitals of the chancel, the fine pointed chancel arch, and a monument to Sir George Paulett (1558). N. of the chancel is the red-brick tower, copied from Battersea old church. The fabric of the church is held together by big buttresses. The old church chest contains many interesting papers and accounts dating from 1543: e.g. a century ago the dog-whipper had a guinea p.a. for 'beating dogs out of the church'.

From Crondall SE. on the Farnham road the rise is pretty quick, past Clare Park (l.), where turn r. to join the Harroway, the W. course of which is close S. of Winklebury Camp, near Basingstoke, and by Amesbury to Salisbury Plain. One field back on the r. is **Powderham Castle**, a medieval earthwork. There is a round artificial knoll, c. 30 yds. diameter, on top of which is a roughly square platform. A circular ditch surrounds the knoll, and outside this is a circular bank. The author had the ditch dug, and the lowest layer produced plentiful Norman pottery. The Castle overlooks Farnham. A little farther W. along the road on the same side is **Barley Pound**, in a copse, in the lower corner of which is the entrenchment. If you are persevering enough to find it

in the thick undergrowth, you will see a very good example of ring-and-bailey fortress, probably of the 12th cent. In the SE. corner of the wood was the circular shell keep, with the inner bailey SW., bounded by bank and ditch, and divided by a bank into two halves. A second bailey lies to N. and W., surrounded by a smaller bank; and there is yet a third enclosure outside this to the N., with a small bank. The whole area, says Dr J Williams Freeman, is of 8–9 acres. The keep is 50 yds diameter, and 18 ft above the bottom of the surrounding ditch: its entrances are on the N. and E. sides.

In 4 m. we come to **Long Sutton**, a well-sited village, with church r. This has a chancel of c. 1200. Note in the chapel S. of nave, niches for piscina and image, a 13th-cent. chest, and a pre-Reformation bier. Turn l. on the Odiham–Alton road. The thatched cottages of **South Warnborough** lie in a hollow between two spurs of the hills, and there are some fine elms. A chestnut avenue leads to the church with a finely-moulded Norman doorway, and a lofty screen of the 14th cent, with rood-loft remaining. John White, Bp of Lincoln, who refused to take the oath of supremacy to Elizabeth, was deposed, and came to live his last days at South Warnborough. There is a brass (1512) in chancel to another John Whyte. Warnborough, meaning ‘stream in which felons were drowned’, was the original name of the Whitewater on which is North Warnborough also.

We just skirt promontories of the hills to **Upton Grey**, a big and pretty village. The nave and base of tower of its church have probably Saxon work in them. In the arch from nave to chancel tower can be seen Norman billet moulding. In the plaster at W. end of nave are three consecration crosses, probably of 11th-cent. date. There are a village pond, interesting old houses, and a pleasant view towards Odiham. Next over a spur to **Tunworth**, a village at the N. angle of Herriard Park. When the church was rebuilt the chancel arch (13th cent.) was retained; but its jambs are Norman. Says

P. M. Johnston: 'Some of the outer masonry on the N. side has a distinctly Saxon appearance.' Note the old almsbox with quaint carving. We have  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. to run into Basingstoke, by Polecat Corner (cross-roads) and along the N. side of **Hackwood Park**, of 700 acres, once the hunting lodge of the Paulets, Dukes of Bolton, and now the seat of Lord Camrose. The 17th-cent. house, designed by Inigo Jones, contains Grinling Gibbons carvings. In the grounds is a fine amphitheatre bounded by elms, with tiers of grassy seats. In the picturesque deer park is some of the finest timber in the county.

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### (b) N of Basingstoke – a short afternoon round

#### THE SHERBORNES – PAMBER – BRAMLEY

Out N. under the railway take first fork r. for **Sherborne St John** (clear stream, property once owned by Robert de Sancto Johanne). The church has a blue copper spire pleasant to look on in the surrounding country, and a memorial S. porch of brick (1533). Note inside a Norman square font, Jacobean oak pulpit, effigies of man and wife between chancel and N. chapel, funeral helmets and brasses to members of the Brocas family. Drive carefully W. through the village and cross the Aldermaston road just past the watercress pond (the source of the bourne) for **Monk Sherborne**, a pretty village with a picturesque old church, which has Norman N. doorway (in a later timber porch) and chancel arch: chancel mid-13th cent. Note the big beams supporting the wooden belfry, and late Norman font. The chancel screen is partly 15th cent.: and the pulpit dates from Charles I. 'Monk Sherborne' refers to a priory, remains of which are at **Pamber**, for which come back into the village by the War Memorial, and going N. take first l. Here the church was formerly the priory church. This, the largest Hampshire



alien priory, was founded by Henry I as a cell of the Norman Benedictine abbey of St Vigor, and at the suppression of alien priories given to St Julian's Hospital, Southampton, already made over to Queen's College, Oxford. Of the cruciform church there remain the central tower and choir, with beautiful 13th-cent. lancet windows. Among objects of interest inside are a pre-Reformation bier and a wooden cross-legged effigy (c. 1270). The moat which surrounded the precincts can be traced.

Turn r. across the Aldermaston road for Bramley. Shortly after a lane on r., at the point where a stream comes under the road, you cross the line of the Roman road from Winchester to Silchester. Bear round r. to **Bramley**, where the church has a W. tower of brick, c. 1630. The N. wall and square font are Norman. There are wall paintings of St Christopher and of the murder of St Thomas of Canterbury. Note gallery and organ at W. end, old pews, and rood on beam over the screen. In the S. or Brocas chapel is a big sculpture by Banks, in memory of Bernard Brocas, 1777. Brasses on floor close by. There is a good 15th-cent. house facing the church turning. Its window frames are of wood, and all the windows of three lights. Between the two wings the centre upper storey is bracketed out. Note the barge boards and close uprights. On the road S., back towards Sherborne St John, Beaurepaire House (not visible) seat of the Brocas family is to the r., and so is the Vyne, a famous house which before the Commonwealth was the residence of the Sandy's family. It was then purchased by the Chutes, the present owners. Built in the early 16th cent., it was altered by Inigo Jones. There is a long picture gallery and a chapel. The Vyne hunt was and is a great institution in this part of the county. The respectable roads round here were very bad a century ago, so that the common saying was, 'The Vyne was the last place upon the earth, and Beaurepaire was beyond it' (pron. Barraper). So back to Basingstoke leaving Sherborne St John to l.

## WINCHESTER

**WINCHESTER** (*Royal*, St Peter Street; *Manor of God Begot*, High Street; *Carfax*, City Road; *Southgate*, Southgate Street; *Norman Mede*, St Cross Road, all *II. Dumper's Restaurant*, High Street) is, and while there are Englishmen, will be classic ground: it was the home of many early kings and the cradle of Anglo-Saxon institutions. Borough meetings were regularly held here certainly from the time of King Edgar. There is so much to know and see that I must focus attention on few points – history, Cathedral, College, Hospital of St John Baptist, Museum, statue of Alfred, City Cross, Great Hall of Castle, Wolvesey Palace, and Hospital of St Cross.

**HISTORY.** Bronze implements found in the underlying peat indicate a Bronze Age settlement, and on neighbouring St Catherine's Hill was an Early Iron Age settlement from c. 450 B.C. onwards, but abandoned before the Belgae came in early 1st cent. B.C. There was a Belgic stronghold on the city site, when the Romans came (c. A.D. 44), called it *Venta Belgarum*, and made it an important walled town defended by river and ditches. They constructed five great radiating roads to Silchester, Marlborough, Old Sarum, Southampton, and Porchester. What remains of Roman Winchester is buried 8–12 ft down. The Saxons, calling the place *Venta-ceaster*, *Wintanceaster* (hence Winchester), built a castle on high ground in the SW. part of the fortified area. There were six gates to the city and one entrance to the castle from without, of which two only now remain – the W. Gate at the top of High Street, and King's Gate to the S. The Saxon Cerdic made the place the capital of Wessex c. 519. Soon after Bp Birinus came to Winchester (634) and converted King Cynegils to Christianity, a church (SS. Peter and Paul)

was built, the mother of the future cathedral, and a bishop's seat since A.D. 674. Wintonia and London were in early days rivals as the chief cities of England. In the latter half of the 9th cent. was the memorable bishopric of St Swithun (852–862). King Alfred founded a great Abbey of St Mary for nuns, whence it is usually called Nunnaminster, and a New Minster was founded N. of the earlier cathedral. For many years there were three great minsters in the SE. angle of the city. The cathedral was rebuilt by Bp. Ethelwold. The Danish King Cnut (11th cent.) made Winchester the capital of his kingdom and, with his Queen Emma, was buried there. William I made London and Winchester his joint capitals, building his palace to the SW. (near St Lawrence church) on the site of the earlier castle. In 1079 the Normans set about restoring the city walls, which eventually remained almost intact till 1760, and rebuilding the cathedral. But the political status of the city was already declining, and Edward I gave it up as a royal residence. After Henry III, who was born here in 1205, its day as a capital city was past.

In medieval days clothworkers were busy near the water in the NE. area, and for a long period Winchester was the chief trading centre of this part of England: High Street was then Cheap Street. Trade depended largely on the navigation of the Itchen, the city being but 10 m. from tidal water, and this was aided by the cutting by Bp Lucy of a canal, now defunct. St Giles's Fair was the great annual mart, chartered by William I and by the time of Henry II extended to 16 days. It became a nuisance and has now been abolished. In 1522 the Emperor Charles V was entertained here by Henry VIII, and Mary and Philip were married in the Cathedral (1554). In a charter of Elizabeth, the Bishop's separate jurisdiction within his 'Soke' (outside the walls SE.) was safeguarded, and did not disappear till 1835. Cromwell captured the city in 1645, and Charles II began, but did not complete, a palace designed by Wren on the site of the

ruined castle. During a long period of decline the Cathedral alone maintained its importance.

The *Cathedral* (Matins 10.30, Evensong 3.30) largely represents the important ecclesiastical history of Winchester. Beneath its floor is the dust of kings and queens, its generous benefactors, and of Saxon bishops like St Birinus, St Swithun, St Alphege, St Ethelwold, and St Brihtwold. Emerson preferred 'this church to all I have seen except Westminster and York.' Some of the stones of the present structure probably formed part of the Saxon minster of Ethelwold; the mass of the stone is from the Bembridge formation in the Isle of Wight. The great transepts, the timber roof above the stone-groined nave, and the W. crypt are the work of the Norman Bishop Walkelin (1079-93). The tower you see dates from 1107 and 1120. The Lady Chapel (E.) is the monument of Bishop Lucy (1189-1200): the Choir was rebuilt 1320-30. For the W. front we are indebted to Bishop Edington and for the transformation of the Norman nave into Early Perp. style to William of Wykeham; next to Gloucester this is the earliest Perp. work. The great nine-light W. window is a fine feature. The first window from the W. (S. side) contains glass of c. 1370. The window over the S. door, gift of American citizens in 1938, commemorates the reign of King George V, while opposite is the Coronation window. The beautiful chantry chapels serve to remind us of Edington, Wykeham, Beaufort, Waynflete, Langton, and Fox, the last of whom gave us the E. window.

Pilgrimages to the shrine of St Swithun went on during the Middle Ages, and ceased only when it was destroyed in 1539. Wykeham, Chancellor of England, founded the College nearly a century before Eton. His chantry (1404) is in the nave by the fifth Norman pillar on the S. side. Note at the foot of his tomb three figures, not of monks, but of secular priests in academical robes; they were his assistants and principal executors. The columns of the N. side are built

round a Norman core. Bishop Edington's chantry is also on the S. side, between the 10th and 11th columns. In the N. aisle is a memorial brass to Jane Austen (d. 1817), who is buried beneath her memorial window. In the S. transept is the monument of Bp Wilberforce (1873). In the massive N. transept note the E.E. carved heads and figures on shafts and capitals; e.g. a monk holding a chequer board; the flat ceiling dates from 1818.

Leading from the S. transept to the choir is the Pilgrim's Gate, placed there originally to exclude St Swithun pilgrims from the S. transept and cloisters. It contains four odd pieces of grill work of c. 1200, possibly the oldest extant in England. The shrine of St Swithun stood in the SE. aisle, the site being marked by a stone kerb and inscription; its treasures were confiscated at the Dissolution in 1538. Walkelin's tower having fallen in 1107, a new one was finished by 1120. The wooden vaulting under it is a copy by Inigo Jones of the roof of Winchester College Chapel. The interior of the Ringers' Chamber above is a fine specimen of Norman work.

N. of the choir is the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, while farther along E. is Bp Gardiner's chantry (1555), and on the opposite side (S.) of the Feretory (behind the altar) is Bp Fox's chantry (1520). In front of the Lady Chapel (N.) is Bp Waynflete's (1486), and (S.) Cardinal Beaufort's chantry (1447). N. of the Lady Chapel is the Chapel of the Guardian Angels, and S. is Bp Langton's chantry. The W. part of the Lady Chapel and the three bays W. of it are of E.E. architecture: the E., N., and S. windows are elaborate Perp. The remains of wall paintings (c. 1500) depict miracles attributed to B.V.M.; reconstructions are hinged over the originals.

Thus we see examples of architectural styles from the 11th to the 16th cent. The length of the structure is 556 ft, and breadth at transepts 217 ft; with the single exception of St Peter's, Rome, this is the longest cathedral in Europe.

A few other points. The great screen to the choir dates

from the second half of the 15th cent. It has an elaborate series of canopied niches with modern figures: in the centre, Our Lord, l. the Blessed Virgin, and r. St John. To the l. again is St Swithun, and r. again St Birinus. (For details see Warren's *Guide to Winchester*, p. 48.) There is one very like it at St Albans. The 12th-cent. font of black Belgian (Tournai) marble has remarkable carvings: S. and W. sides refer to incidents in the life of St Nicholas, Bp of Myra – S., the Saint presenting dowers to three maidens, and W. the restoration to life of a drowned child, and of three boys murdered at an inn. In this font was baptized King Henry III. In the choir are 62 beautifully carved stalls and misericords with grotesque heads, animals, monsters, etc. (c. 1308). In the centre is the tomb of William Rufus. The remains of pre-Conquest kings and bishops were placed by Bp Fox (1524) in chests on the top of the side screens of the E. part of the choir. There have been from Birinus (d. 650) to the present time sixty-nine bishops. Outside all round the Close exists the ancient precinct wall of the monastery.

SE. of the cathedral was the *Castle and Palace of Wolvesey*, where the bishops once lived; the ruins seen, with walls of amazing thickness, belong to the castle erected by Bp de Blois (1129–71). The explanation of 'Wolvesey' is that King Edgar in 951 ordered 300 wolves' heads to be delivered to him here annually, in an attempt to extirpate these beasts of prey. The castle was dismantled by Henry II, but it remained for Cromwell to reduce it to ruins. Under Wren and later a palace was built, but the greater part of it was taken down; it is now the residence of the Bishop.

*Winchester College* (St Mary), S. of the cathedral and of College Street, was founded by William of Wykeham (1382), whose portrait, painted temp. Elizabeth, is in the hall. It was not occupied till 1394. Previously there had been a Grammar School, succeeded by a High School, in which Wykeham himself was educated. He enjoined for his college the motto,

*Manners Makyth Man.* The buildings remain almost as when founded. Through the gateway we reach two quadrangles, the buildings round which were originally intended for 115 persons. The outer court comprised the offices, the inner housed the warden, fellows, 70 scholars, and others. The tower (1863) is the third on the site. The massive outer gateway (1394) has an ancient statue of B.V.M. On the E. wall is a Dominion clock, mainly of stainless steel, gift of Sir Herbert Baker. The inner 'quad' has quaint carvings over the windows referring to the uses of the apartments. The conduit (W. side) was formerly the washing place of the scholars. The Chapel has fine Perp. windows, the E. window depicting a Tree of Jesse, i.e. Christ's genealogy from Jesse; the glass-painter himself is shown kneeling beneath Jesse's feet. The original wooden fan-tracery ceiling is almost intact, and eighteen misericord seats survive. The reredos was restored in 1877. Recent oak panelling shows arms of Wardens (S.) and Headmasters (N.). In the square of the Perp. cloisters stands the beautiful chantry chapel to John Fromond, steward of the College (1405–20). The Hall has a good groined roof, panelling mainly of 16th cent., and tapestries. In School (1687), on the NW. wall, is the advice in Latin: 'Learn or Leave: Alternative, the Rod.' The Museum was built in 1897. The War Cloister commemorates Wykehamists who fell in 1914–18. Art Gallery and Science School are new. Most schoolboys know the tune of *Dulce Domum*, written probably in the first half of 17th cent. and set to music by J. Reading, organist to the College 1680–92. Next (W.) to the college buildings in College Street is the house in which Jane Austen died in 1817.

The *Hospital of St John Baptist* (founded 1275) is in Basket Lane, SE. end of High Street, near the Guildhall: it was founded for aged and poor wayfaring men. Several churches of the city are worth a visit, especially *St John's*, below Magdalen Hill at the E. end of the city, which has Trans. Norman C—H. & IW.

work and contains a 14th-cent. screen pulpit and Easter Sepulchre. *St Peter Chesil* has some 12th- or 13th-cent. work, and *St Bartholomew's*, Hyde Street, is Norman though restored. Some Norman capitals exhibited in this church come from *Hyde Abbey*, a once-powerful foundation, the sole standing relic of which is a gateway opposite the church. Here King Alfred was buried, but his tomb was lost at the Dissolution. His millenary, however, was honoured in 1901 by the erection of a highly imposing statue by Thornycroft, at the E. end of High Street. The graceful *City Cross* (rest.) is in the central portion of the street. This, referred to in 1440 as *alta crux* (high cross), was not a market cross, but one of the high crosses where laws were declared, proclamations made, judgements delivered, and sermons preached. The *West Gate* is largely of the 13th cent., and contains an interesting museum. The *Great Hall*, S. of West Gate, for long the County Hall, was part of the ancient royal castle (1235), of which the remains are part of the Hall and a subterranean passage. In this castle were born Henry III and Arthur, son of Henry VI. In it Henry VIII entertained the Emperor Charles V (1522), who inspected the Round Table. Originally Norman, the Hall was transformed into E.E. by Henry III. Parliaments of England sat here for centuries, and there were famous trials here of Sir Walter Raleigh and Lady Alice Lisle. The roof columns are of Purbeck marble, and the windows are very noteworthy. At the W. end hangs the so-called *Round Table of King Arthur*, not older than the time of Henry III and repainted under Henry VIII. Apart from the royal seat, it bears the names of twenty-four knights; the form of the letters and general decoration indicate a date about Henry VIII. Our legends of Arthur are due to the writings of Geoffrey of Monmouth. It is suggested that the Round Table may have been the chief tribunal or superior court of justice. In the W. wall of the Hall is an opening called the 'King's Ear', which enabled the king in his private



apartment to hear what was being said in Parliament. Near the dais is the statue of Queen Victoria by Gilbert.

The good *City Museum* (10-1 and 2-4 or 6), in the NW. corner of the Square, S. of High Street, is reached by way of the passage by the City Cross. It houses collections of pre-historic implements mainly from Hants, Early Iron Age remains from St Catherine's Hill (first floor) and elsewhere, and Roman antiquities both local and from the Southampton neighbourhood. In the Square, opposite the Museum, is the *Eclipse Inn*, a single-gable house with timbers and barge-boards, formerly the 16th-cent. Rectory of St Lawrence's church. The Guildhall was built in 1873; the *Old Guildhall*, with its clock projecting over High Street at the corner of St Thomas Street, was in existence in Tudor times and was rebuilt in 1711. Among old houses are *God-begot House* (medieval with rebuilt front) in High Street and the *Old Chesil Rectory* (1450), across the bridge. (For fuller details I refer the reader to *Warren's Guide to Winchester*, 1s. 6d., at Warren's Library.)

For the *Hospital of St Cross*, 'first of its own class', turn out of High Street by Southgate Street, which continues as St Cross Road, or take the riverside path through the College grounds. The Hospital buildings stand between the road and the river Itchen (tickets at the lodge). The Hospital was founded by Bp. William de Blois in 1136. Through the outer gate is the outer court, with the Hundred Mens' Hall, now a brewhouse, etc., on E. side, and kitchen and offices W. Under the tower is dispensed every day the famous dole of bread and beer to wayfarers, now reduced to 2 loaves and 2 gallons; in pre-war days the author took this, a 2 in. square of white bread and  $\frac{1}{3}$  pint of Romsey ale in a horn beaker. In the second quadrangle are the quarters of the brethren, their hall and church; on the E. side the Infirmary with ambulatory (walking place) below. The very fine church (1130-1255) contains examples of successive architectural

styles – Romanesque, Trans. Norman, and E.E., to late Dec. Note the choir stalls, Elizabethan altar rails, interlaced arches in the triforium of E. window, the screens N. and S. of the sanctuary, the wooden lectern – part eagle, part parrot – and ancient floor tiles. The original foundation of de Blois was intended for the board and lodging of 30 poor men, and for 100 others to have their dinner daily, the management being made over to the Knights Hospitallers. Cardinal Beaufort designed a new foundation, ‘The Alms-house of Noble Poverty,’ intended for 35 brethren, 2 sisters, and 2 priests, people of gentle birth who had seen better times; but it was never completed. Somehow by 1486 the foundation was reduced to one chaplain and two brethren. To-day the two foundations are treated separately under one head. The Beaufort brethren wear a purple gown with badge on left breast; the de Blois brethren a black gown. The charity now consists of a master, chaplain, steward and thirteen resident poor brethren, and certain doles of bread distributed to the neighbouring poor. (For a full account see *History of St Cross Hospital*, 2s. 6d.: Warren, Winchester.)

### Route 6. – Round E. from Winchester

WINCHESTER    TICHBORNE – NEW ALRESFORD –  
BISHOP'S SUTTON – ROPLEY – WEST MEON – EXTON –  
CORHAMPTON – MEONSTOKE – BISHOP'S WALTHAM –  
SHEDFIELD – WICKHAM – BOTLEY – TWYFORD –  
WINCHESTER

The road out of **Winchester** E. is up Magdalen Hill and along a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -m. stretch of straight Roman road which was apparently not finished; it was used in later times to connect with New Alresford, a more direct route than that along the Itchen valley. On the NE. stretch it is worth while to turn off r. to **Tichborne** ('kid stream'), on the little river which flows from Bramdean and Cheriton to join the Itchen. (These 'bourne' names, like Hurstbourne, Selborne, and Somborne, denote early Saxon settlements.) It is a pretty place among trees, with a big house in a 100-acre park. The house dates c. 1805, replacing one which had Norman origins. The church, standing high and isolated, has a Saxon chancel with pilaster-strips and E. gable of the nave. The font is Norman; doorway and staircase to rood loft are 15th cent.; much woodwork is Elizabethan and Jacobean; and the brick tower is early 18th cent. The N. chapel, separated by an iron railing, belongs to the Roman Catholic Tichborne family, and in it is a monument to Sir Benjamin Tichborne, knighted by Queen Bess at Basing and created baronet by James I. The family goes back to Saxon times. Chidiok Tichborne was beheaded for conspiracy in favour of Mary Queen of Scots. Some of us will remember the famous Tichborne trial in which Arthur Orton claimed the estates. Was Arthur the missing Sir Roger Tichborne? You can continue along the river to the main road and so to **New Alresford** (R. 4), 1 m. beyond which is **Bishop's Sutton**, so called be-

cause here was once a residence of the Bishops of Winchester. The church has two noteworthy Norman doorways, a belfry resting on four massive posts inside, and a brass (c. 1500) to a knight and his lady.

One m. further on, turn r. at the Anchor Inn and pass through the edge of Ropley (see R. 18). Beyond this the road climbs up on to a table-land, after which it runs through a magnificent beech avenue down to a dangerous cross-roads under a railway bridge, known as Hedge Corner. Here turn r. (S.) along the Alton-Fareham road, over high ground, nearly 600 ft at Filmore Hill, and straight over cross-roads at West Meon Hut Inn, with a bit of collar-work for the car to **West Meon**, on the river of that name – a British one – which flows S. by Titchfield into Southampton Water below the Hamble. The church was rebuilt mid 19th cent. in early 13th-cent. style. There are interesting samples of old houses, and a monument among trees beside the road to a doctor, erected 'by the last surviving of their sixteen children.' Olive branches fitly surround the inscription. Thomas Lord, proprietor of the famous Lord's Cricket Ground at St John's Wood, is buried in the churchyard.

We continue down the Meon valley for Meonstoke, making a very short detour l. (E.), by lane to **Old Winchester Hill**, the highest ridge in these parts (650 ft). A British Camp, one of the best in Hants, is on its summit, and there are several burial mounds in association. The climb is well worth while both for the camp and very fine views. The camp has ramparts c. 1000 yds. in length, and these were stockaded. It required some 2500 men for the defence, a force which no doubt the inhabitants of the Meon valley could have supplied. Pear-shaped and lying ESE.-WNW., it has entrances at both ends, and contains c. 14 acres. The slopes are steep except for the level ridge E. The Ridgeway runs through the length of the camp. **Exton** is interesting, for as its name shows – Domesday, Essessentune, tun of the

East Saxons – it was an exceptional East Saxon colony among the West Saxons of Hants. Apart from the name there is nothing Saxon to show, for the church was rebuilt in 1847, in the style of the later 13th cent. **Corhampton** ('corn village') on the W. bank of the Meon opposite Meonstoke, boasts a capital little Saxon church. Do not be deceived by your first look at it from the road, for the E. end has been rebuilt in shoddy brickwork. The Saxon features are the nave with its 'long-and-short' work at the angles, pilaster-strips, and blocked N. door, also the chancel arch, the sundial, and possibly the stone chair in the chancel. Other features of interest are some wall-paintings of Saints and painted drapery, the Norman font with band of cable moulding, an old altar-stone in the chancel and a large yew in the churchyard. At Corhampton lived James Aylward, a mighty hitter in Hambledon cricket, e.g. 167 against All England in 1777. **Meonstoke's** church (St Andrew) is mainly 13th cent, – nave, arcades, chancel, and tower, which was given a queer new top in 1901; the font (c. 1200) is of Purbeck marble. Now we are in the middle of the Meon valley it is well to recall its pre-Norman settlement. The Jutes had effected the conquest of the Isle of Wight, the whole of the Meon Valley, and the NE. shore of Southampton Water almost to the mouth of the Itchen. The Meonwara, or Meon people, occupied the hundreds of East Meon and Meonstoke. Wulfhere, the pagan king of Mercia, inherited the overlordship of Wessex, in 661 defeated Cenwealh of Wessex, and made over all the Jutish settlements to the South Saxons of Sussex as a reward for submission. As the South Saxons were situated E. of the Jutes, this is probably the explanation of East Saxons at Exton. Meonstoke was one of the royal demesnes in Hants which supported Harold against the Conqueror. Later West Meon and Meonstoke were manors of the Bp of Winchester. Quitting the Meon, which we shall reach again at Wickham, we fork r. and make a W. loop to **Bishop's Waltham**, a junc-

tion of five roads, an ancient market-town and important medieval residence of the Bishops of Winchester. Their castle (SW.), in a 1000-acre park, was begun (1136) by Henry de Blois. Here Henry II, in need of supplies for a Crusade, held a council, and here Richard Coeur-de-Lion was entertained, after his coronation at Winchester. Here died that great son of Hampshire, William of Wykeham, who had made a palace out of the dismantled castle in 1404. Of the big house, unroofed during the Civil War and long pilfered and neglected, the ruins are now preserved: e.g. the five-windowed front of the great hall; foundations of an apse-shaped chapel; basement of a tower; great refectory of the base court which accommodated retainers; and a brick wall (pre-1500) partly surrounding the site. The tower of St Peter's church dates 1584-9. Inside see a fine Jacobean pulpit. Outside the town, on the Botley road (r.) c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. out, a Roman villa was discovered, not far from the Roman road which came from Winchester to Wickham (or near it). Close S. of Bishop's Waltham rises the Hamble river, which below Botley expands into well-known yachting waters.

By the SE. road we come by **Shedfield**, where the tower of the old church stands in the churchyard, to **Wickham** (=manor) on the Meon, before it is rechristened the River Titchfield. Here in 1324 was born William of Wykeham. In the broad market-place are houses of many ages and styles. In the church (St Nicholas) is a good Norman doorway (W. tower); the brickwork S. transept is of 1781. See the monument to Sir William Uvedale (1615) with effigies of himself, wife, and children (S. chancel chapel). Wickham is the most picturesque place in these parts, enhanced by the river with mill and bridges. The Jutes chose the spot wisely for a settlement. In the Middle Ages the outstanding family was that of the Stures. Here we part company with the Meon valley and its long history. The road from Wickham to Botley is an arc, the chord of which is the line of the Roman road from

Chichester *via* Havant, which forked near (S. of) Wickham for Bitterne (Clausentum). The arc is a well-wooded district, through the middle of which flows the Hamble, near the r. bank of which was a Roman villa. **Botley** apparently means a clearing whose dwellers had a right to take timber from the nearby woods for repairs. Another of the market-towns which have had their day, it has a wide street bordered by some old houses. Prominent is the market-hall (1848); its portico boasts four Portland-stone monolith pillars, and there is a Diamond Jubilee clock-turret. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. E. is the old church, the 13th-cent, chancel of which is preserved, but not used. All Saints, at the W. end of the town, was built in 1836, and contains an effigy of John de Botley from the old church. A prehistoric dug-out canoe, found in the bed of the Hamble in 1888, is now in the Tudor House Museum at Southampton.

The Winchester road by Fair Oak is reputed to owe its existence chiefly to the efforts of William Cobbett, of Fairthorn Farm, famous author of *Rural Rides*. It is a pleasant road, but on it there is nothing 'to make a song about', until **Twyford** (two fords) a picturesque village on the Itchen, with a fine church (1877). The lofty tower and spire reach 140 ft. The nave arcades (c. 1200) are built in from the old church; a famous old clipped yew tree is in the yard. A few years ago Lt.-Col. Montague dug out a Roman villa in a private garden. Pope, the poet, was at school in the village and left in disgrace for satirizing its masters. And so we come under St Catherine's Hill back into **Winchester**.

### Route 7. – SW. of Winchester: the New Forest

WINCHESTER – HURSLEY – ROMSEY, – NEW FOREST –  
RINGWOOD – CHRISTCHURCH – BOURNEMOUTH –  
MILFORD-ON-SEA – LYMINGTON – BROCKENHURST –  
LYNDHURST – TOTTON – CHANDLER'S FORD – OTTER-  
BOURNE – COMPTON – WINCHESTER

Out of Winchester we are bound SW. for Romsey. About  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. out on l. is a hill called Oliver Cromwell's Battery. In this earthwork was found in 1930 a fine enamelled bronze bowl of Saxon date. It is in the British Museum, but there is a replica in the Winchester Museum. Such bowls were suspended, perhaps containing holy water, often in the hall, not necessarily in a church. The inside ornament suggests that it was not hung high. The village of **Hursley** is associated with the memory of the poet of *The Christian Year*, John Keble, vicar 1836–66. It was mainly due to him that the church (All Saints) was rebuilt on the old site. It contains the tomb, under the old tower, of Richard Cromwell ('Tumbledown Dick'), son of Oliver, who died in 1712. Take the r. fork with Ampfield Wood r., and so run into **ROMSEY** (pron. Rumsey), on the l. bank of the Test (*White Horse II*). The name means Rum's island, and it is now a municipal borough, first incorporated by James I. The *Abbey* was probably founded by Edward the Elder, c. 907, but the larger part of the building now seen was the work of Bp Henry de Blois (1129–71). At the suppression there were twenty-five nuns and the abbess. The buildings of the convent were demolished, but the town was able to buy back the church for £100. It was at Romsey nunnery that Maud, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, was staying with her aunt Christina, the abbess, when Henry I began his courtship of her. Good Queen Maud became known as a



founder and benefactor of abbeys, builder of bridges, and author of many good works.

In 1900, the foundations of the apsidal E. end of a former church were discovered, which was probably of two dates, 10th and 11th cent. This foundation is to be seen by raising a trap-door in the floor in front of the pulpit. The present fine structure dates from c. 1125 onwards. 'There is no more interesting study of Norman architecture to be found in the whole of England than that of Romsey Abbey' (J. C. Cox). Nearly the whole of the interior, a nave, isles, transepts, tower, and choir are Norman at its best, though there is also beautiful pointed work of the 13th cent. at the W. end. The varied mouldings and carved corbels are admirable. The Romsey Psalter, an illuminated MSS. of the 15th cent., is to be seen in a glass case. In the N. transept is a 15th-cent. reredos painted with the figures of saints. In the Chapel of St Anne, end of S. choir aisle, forming part of the reredos, is one of the two Saxon roods: it was found built face inwards in one of the walls, and is believed to be a gift of King Cnut. The other and larger is outside the SE. door ('the Nuns' Doorway') and is ascribed to the reign of King Ethelred II. It was probably originally placed at the W. end of the Saxon church. For some time a store-house was built round it, and it is now under a pentice. The Christ is life-size, and the feet are not crossed. Above the head is represented the Hand of God coming out of a cloud. In the N. choir aisle is a painted wooden reredos, of which the subject is the Resurrection. See a Purbeck-marble effigy (13th cent.) of a lady in S. transept, and in N. transept (N. wall) an opening to an anchorite's cell. A handbook for visitors is available.

In the market-place is a statue of Lord Palmerston, who resided at Broadlands Park, S. of the town, where the house was built by 'Capability' Brown. One would like to see a clearance of commonplace buildings crowding round the noble abbey, so that it might stand in an ample Close and

freely open to view on all sides. These too close attentions have been a bad habit of Romsey shop-keepers, witness the shed of a general dealer's shop which enclosed, as was said above, the rood on the W. wall of the S. transept.

In a by-street due E. of the Abbey is *King John's Hunting Lodge*, a 13th-cent. building re-discovered among small cottage property by the late Mr W. J. Andrew, F.S.A., in 1927. An interesting feature is a collection of graffiti scratched on the upper room recording arms and mottoes of visiting Barons in 1306.

The Berthon collapsible boat is known to thousands of yachtsmen and others; it was the invention of the versatile vicar of Romsey, the Rev. E. L. Berthon, who also laboured hard to restore some of the beauties of the abbey. Another notability was Dr Latham, a physician who retired to Romsey, studied local antiquities and natural history, and later when living at Winchester published a *General History of Birds*.

Leaving Romsey by A 31, in c. 6 m. we are at Cadnam and entering the New Forest.

### The New Forest

Here is a short sketch of its ancient and modern bounds, its history, and other matters the visitor should know. The bounds in 1300, according to Heywood Sumner, are practically those which obtain to-day. From the SE. corner, E. of Beaulieu River and Lepe, to the NW. corner, a little N. of the Norman fort on Castle Hill near Godshill (pron. Godsle), the Forest was c. 21 m. across. From a point about 2 m. SW. of Castle Hill, near Burley, to Church Place (2 m. from Bury Farm by Southampton Water) was 11 m., and the centre of the area was roughly on the Highland Water, c. 1 m. above its confluence with Bratley Water. It is not easy to beat the bounds, but they run thus, and can be pencilled in on a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. Bartholomew map. Starting at the SE., E. of

the Dark Water, i.e. halfway between Lepe and Stone Point, go NNW. to Holbury Farm, where the boundary juts out E. and runs along Southampton Water for c. 2 m., and then returns W. to take up a direction NW. to Church Place and straight to Cadnam. Next, to No Man's Land, where the course becomes W. by Branshaw Telegraph (the site of a semaphore of Napoleonic times) and reaches the NW. point 1 m. N. of Castle Hill, Godshill. Now go almost due S. leaving Fordingbridge 2 m., and Ringwood 3 m. to the W. The boundary now tends SE. by Setley Plain (c. 3 m. N. of Lymington), crosses the Lymington River and reaches the shore of the Solent  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of Walhampton. Hence along the shore across the mouth of Beaulieu River to the starting point E. of Lepe.

These are practically the modern bounds, with one notable exception: to-day the boundary does not march with the Solent between Walhampton and Lepe, and excludes Beaulieu and a strip on both sides of the river, as far N. as North Gate, though it still includes Beaulieu Heath East. So bounded the Forest now comprises c. 145 square m., of which just under one-third is private property.

The three great roads, across the area are: (i) N.-S., Cadnam - Lyndhurst - Brockenhurst - Lymington; (ii) NE.-SW., Cadnam - Ringwood (for Poole and Dorchester); and (iii), roughly parallel with ii, (Southampton) - Ashurst - Lyndhurst - Plain Heath (for Christchurch and Bournemouth). It is now under discussion how to compromise between the preservation of the natural beauty and quietness of this glorious region and the need for a main transport road. The main road proposed is Cadnam-Ringwood. Whatever is decided, it will need much vigilance on the part of local authorities to prevent the encroachments and spreading influence of villadom from the S. coastal area, true, outside the Forest area, but all too close. Will any authority be able to thwart irregular and rapid vandalization? Can we

keep 'the Forest as a historical monument, a reserve for natural life of many kinds, and a place of refreshment, light and peace for man' – a great national playground as well as a self-supporting national industry?

Of the Forest area the Romans used most the NW. portion. They had potteries at Ashley Rails, Island Thorns, Crock Hill, Sloden, and Linwood, and S. as far as Oakley and Anderwood. It was perhaps to take the very extensive pottery product to Winchester that the Roman road was made by Stoney Cross, Cadnam, and Nursling, and to Poole in the SW. direction. The small stretch of Roman road E. of Beaulieu Heath does not, I believe, rest on proof by excavation. Its supposed course is from Dibden to Lepe. It is first seen S. of the road by Dibden church. On Beaulieu Heath it runs W. of Butts Ash Farm and appears as a distinct causeway across the common for c. 1 m., and is very plain across Blackwell Common.

'Forest' does not necessarily mean a great wood of trees, but an uncultivated tract belonging to the king, and generally kept apart (Lat. *foris*) for wild animals; heaths are included. In Saxon and Danish times, long before the Norman Conquest, the vert and venison of the Forest were under the charge of four thegns, or verderers, and there were laws governing hunting and woodlands. Landowners were allowed to shoot bears, foxes, and wolves; lords were allowed to kill two beasts, provided they sounded a horn before killing. The old Forest laws were cruel, but they were not the invention of William I. He certainly intensified them and extended the bounds, but the wild stories of his burning out of villagers, destroying churches, and sterilizing fertile lands, mainly invented by monks and too easily accepted, are now discredited. The Forest Charter of 1217 provided that neither life nor limb should suffer for killing the royal deer; a fine only could be imposed. The ancient royal hunting establishment in the New Forest was nominally maintained for cen-

turies after kings had ceased to hunt there: e.g. the appointment as bow-bearer was regarded as an honourable distinction long after it had become a sinecure. Though most of the deer are now gone, some of the tall deer which the Conqueror loved have still some 600 descendants roaming wild in the woodlands. Forest ponies and pigs abound; and the native red squirrel still holds its own within the Forest, though the mischievous grey squirrel has captured the environs. For birds, a white-tailed eagle may be seen, or a jack snipe; woodcock and common snipe breed. You can find wild life and solitude away, even a few hundred yards away, from the more frequented places. Trees of all kinds await admiration: great beeches, ancient oaks, silver birches, big hollies, dark yews, alders, hazels; bracken in vast patches, and bell-heather tinting moorlands – natural beauties ‘in endless variety and in boundless profusion,’ a hundred square miles of it with ups and downs to wander in. Try Mark Ash, Knight Wood, with its five-centuries-old famous oak tree, Boldre Wood, Whitley Wood, the Sloden Inclosure, and the Lymington Valley.

The New Forest, like the smaller Hants forests of Alice Holt, Woolmer and others, has had a long connexion with the navy, providing its natural growth of timber for centuries until the time of William IV; but New Forest oak was not of such good quality as was obtainable elsewhere, e.g. in Sussex. In 1698, in order to keep up the supply of timber, by Act of Parliament 6000 acres of the Forest were enclosed as a nursery for young oaks. Some of the trees then planted now form part of the ornamental woods. Modern times begin with the Deer Removal Act of 1851, when the Crown was allowed to enclose an additional 10,000 acres until the trees were sufficiently grown, when fresh enclosures should be made. A later Act of 1877, which now governs the Forest, restricted this procedure to plantations made since 1700, the old woods to remain open. Recently conifers, which pay

their way, have been especially planted; a deteriorated soil does not favour beech and oak. There are magnificent Douglas firs in Boldre Wood, some 150 ft high. About 70 years old, they were the first group in England. They are approached by the road from Emery Down to Stoney Cross. The commoners have the right of turning out animals to feed, and possibly give little thought to damage done on young wood in old enclosures. The Forest Court to settle disputes is held at Lyndhurst, in the Hall next to the King's House (17th cent.).

In the 18th cent. New Forest folk had their share in the smuggling industry; traditions survive of caves and cellars where spirits, tobacco, etc., were stored. Poaching, of course, was a time-honoured profession through many centuries.

Books recommended: J. R. Wise's *The New Forest, Its History and Scenery* (1863); Horace G. Hutchinson's *The New Forest* (10s. 6d.); V. C. H., *Hampshire*, Vol. IV; for the antiquarian, Heywood Sumner's *Ancient Earthworks of the New Forest* (1917), and *Roman Pottery Sites at Sloden and Lenwood* (1921, 3s. 6d.). There is a big range of literature on the subject.

The hamlet of **Cadnam** (older Cadenham) is a centre of cross-roads, and a good entrance to the Forest. We take a r. and l. and keep on A 31. It is a fine climbing Forest highway with the open glade of Bignell Wood (r.) and the enclosure of Share Green (l.). On the top are the lodge gates of Castle Malwood, and then (r.) is a narrow road going down steeply to **Canterton Glen**, the scene of the death of William Rufus. We make this short detour to see the *Rufus Stone* set up (1745) by Lord De la Warr on the much-visited spot where an arrow glanced off an oak and killed Rufus on August 2, 1100. The legend is 'that Tyrrell drew and the King lay dead.' Accident or purpose, who shall say? Purkess, a charcoal burner, took the body to Winchester Cathedral in his cart. We return to the road, a straight stretch of Roman, with

**Castle Malwood** on l., a favourite retreat from politics of Sir William Harcourt. By **Stoney Cross** and across its Plain, after  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. we have Sluffers Inclosure (r.) and Bratley Inclosure (l.) at about the highest point on the road, two tumuli (burial mounds) being on our r. Shortly after a garage at the turning to Burley (l.) at Picket Hill we leave the Forest, and so down to **RINGWOOD**, on the E. branch of the river Avon (*Crown II*). It is the market town of the district, and makes knitted woollen gloves called 'Ringwoods'; linen collars and cuffs are also made. The large church, rebuilt 1853, has on its E. wall a series of paintings, a memorial to the family of John Keble (see Hursley), whose mother (*née* Maule) was the daughter of a vicar of Ringwood. It was here in a house by the bridge westward over the Avon that Monmouth, a refugee from the rout of Sedgemoor in Somerset, wrote his abject petition for mercy. A busy industrial place of some 5000 persons, Ringwood has little to suggest the Forest, or its Saxon existence as a royal manor with church and mill. Two centuries ago one Bower, a gardener, used to put away daily sixteen pints of Ringwood ale while working in the churchyard; the sexton was limited to eight. Some 3 m. N. is **Moyles Court**, where two Monmouth fugitives took refuge with Dame Alice Lisle. The men were captured, and the lady arrested and removed to Winchester for her 'trial' by Judge Jeffreys. She was convicted and condemned to be burnt, but her own petition to the King that she should be beheaded was granted, and the sentence was carried out at Winchester, September 2, 1685. Her tomb is in Ellingham churchyard; and the memory of this tragedy is well preserved at the Court.

The road for Christchurch, A 338, is along the l. bank of the Avon and its meadows. To enjoy this restful stretch, get on to it early in the day before Bournemouth sends out its myriad trippers. Passing through **Bisterne** with its park on the l., after a sharp bend W. we come to **Tyrrell's Ford**, over

which tradition says Sir Walter Tyrrell fled after killing his king in Canterton Glen, on his way to Poole, where he took ship to Normandy. It is a picturesque crossing, especially if a horse and cart happens to be negotiating the shallows. We are soon at the quaint old-style village of **Sopley**, with its park, a mill, and 13th-cent. church on a knoll above the river flats. A beautiful view is open to Christchurch. Note in chancel of the church a low-side window closed with a shutter; in N. aisle two big effigies (c. 1270) of Purbeck-marble, one a lady, and in S. aisle a Purbeck coffin slab of still earlier date; upper doorway to rood-loft; and a good Jacobean pulpit. Old houses have deep thatched roofs and overhanging eaves. After Winkton there are alternative routes. By the W. road we go through **Burton**, a pleasant village facing the Avon flats, where Lamb and Southey foregathered in 1797. The church is modern. Otherwise, leave the main road by forking l. by B 3347, and after crossing the railway turn r. into **CHRISTCHURCH** (*King's Arms II*), built on a tongue of land between Avon (E.) and Stour (W.) where they both empty into a sea inlet, a shoal-blocked harbour. Twineham was the original name, meaning place between streams. About A.D. 900 it was captured by Ethelwold, Alfred's nephew, when fighting Edward the Elder. Edward the Confessor established here a priory of secular canons and the great minster of Christchurch became so important that the place took its name. In 1150 it became a priory of Austin canons and continued so till the suppression in 1539, which took place in spite of the highly reasonable pleas of John Draper, the Prior. The church, however, survived as a parish church, but the conventual buildings were destroyed. The *Priory Church* is certainly 'a collection of samples and styles', but they are fine samples which must interest the student of architecture. From the avenue we enter by a noble 13th-cent. E.E. porch, one of the finest in England. Inside, the clere-story also is 13th cent., but the nave of seven bays is mostly



original Norman work of the later decorative style. So are the crypts below the transepts. The other Norman item of importance is outside, the beautiful rounded turret at the NE. angle of the N. transept, with interlaced arcade at the bottom, and two plain arcades with lattice tracing between them. Lastly, the vaulting of the nave aisles is Norman, the N. transept mainly so, and there is a Norman apsidal chapel on the E. of the S. transept. Over the four big crossing arches was formerly a tower; when this fell – there is no doubt that for some reason many Norman towers did fall – the fine tower was erected (1501–20) at the W. end of the nave. The choir was rebuilt in the 15th cent. but the Lady Chapel is earlier (c. 1400). Dividing nave from choir is the stone pulpitum, restored 1848, but retaining some 14th-cent. work; old choir stalls with very quaint misericords; 14th-cent. reredos with sculpture representing the Adoration of the Magi and a Jesse tree; Salisbury chapel (N. of altar) badly mishandled at the Dissolution; in N. choir aisle alabaster effigies of Sir John and Lady Chydioke (1455) and piscina niche; chapel of John Draper, the last prior (E. of S. choir aisle); and fine reredos at E. end of Lady Chapel. Under the W. tower is a marble monument to the poet Shelley, with a stanza from *Adonais*, which was rejected by the Westminster Abbey authorities; there is also a modern font, being a copy of a Norman one now much damaged, which is preserved in the N. choir aisle. For a fine view go up to the roof of the N. transept, and if possible see the church from Hengistbury Head (see below). The priory buildings stood S. of the nave, but little remains except two doors from nave to cloister. In Castle Street by the Avon are the ruins of the *Norman House*, with good windows and a fine chimney. It was connected with the castle to the W., of which survives part of the keep on a mound artificially piled, with walls 10 ft thick. For bird lovers there is an interesting museum.

**Hengistbury Head** is best approached along the cliff from

Southbourne. The ground E. of the Double Dykes (i.e. two banks with ditch between extending across the neck for 500 yds), chiefly on Warren Hill, was inhabited from c. 700 B.C. to the 4th cent. A.D. Burial mounds excavated some years ago by Mr J. P. Bushe-Fox all contained worked flints, and one had two cones of thin gold, three amber beads, and an incense cup. Dwelling sites and hut circles were found and there were thousands of coins both British and Roman-British. Among the finds also were pottery representing the periods named, objects of metal, glass, and Kimmeridge shale, and hearths of cupellation furnaces probably for extracting silver from lead.

From Christchurch you can leave the main road, turning l. (S.) to Southbourne and along the sea front by Boscombe and the fine Undercliff Drive to **BOURNEMOUTH** to the Pier (*Bath I, Branksome Tower I*, and a hundred other hotels). Behind this is the Pavilion, home of music, and the pretty shady gardens through which runs the Bourne stream. Facing S., with mild climate and well provided with pine woods, with chines or 'bunnies' running down to the shore, and with good sea bathing, Bournemouth is deservedly a famous health resort: hence its very rapid development to a population of 100,000 during the last century, a marvellous mushroom growth. At the top of the S. stretch of the Pleasure Gardens is the Square, on the main E.-W. route between Christchurch road and Poole road. Above the Square is the Town Hall, in Bourne Avenue. St Peter's Church is in St Peter's road; and the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, containing pictures, sculpture, and curios, is close by the *Royal Bath Hotel*. Among literary associations are the following: John Keble died here in 1866 and has a memorial window in St Peter's Church, in the yard of which is buried Mary Wollstonecraft, second wife of Shelley. Readers of Thos. Hardy's most poignant *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* may recognize 'Sandbourne' as Bournemouth. *Dr Jekyll and Mr*

*Hyde* was written by R. L. Stevenson at 61, Alum Chine Road (damaged by enemy action and since demolished).

All the churches are, of course, modern, but some are very interesting architecturally: e.g. St Peter's (architect, G. E. Street), St Michael's and St Clement's (Norman Shaw and J. D. Sedding). **Boscombe** (box-tree valley) is a beautiful suburb, with pleasant cliffs and Chine gardens.

Return through Christchurch, and go E. by A 35, forking r. by A 337, which proceeds between Chewton Glen and Chewton Bunny which enters the sea at Highcliffe. We pass through Milton, where a turn r. leads to Barton Cliffs, famous for fossils. Beyond Ashley, turn r. at Downton for **Milford-on-Sea**, near the coast, whence is a good view due S. to the Needles. This has become a select seaside resort since the beginning of the century owing to good air and bathing; there are golf links. All Saints' church retains original Norman features in two arches of the S. arcade and the S. doorway of transept. The W. tower, 13th cent., is of peculiar and interesting construction. Note windows with early quatrefoil plate-tracery. The Danestream seems to preserve the tradition of a battle with the Danes. Return to the road at Everton, and enter **LYMINGTON** (*Angel II*) from the S. The town is on the W. side of the Lymington or Boldre river, and lies c. 1 m. S. of the Forest boundary. It is ancient and has had its days of importance. Its charter is dated 1150; it was long, from 1584, a Parliamentary borough; its port did much business, especially in ship-building; and it was a centre for the salt industry, remains of its salterns or salt-pans being still visible in the marshes to the S. Its next effort was as a sea-bathing resort, with spa and tidal baths. In the wide High Street will be found interesting houses: at its top is the Georgian church (St Thomas the Apostle) which took the place of an earlier one, and is at least quaint, while 17th cent. lime avenues make its churchyard pleasant. The tower with cupola has a 15th-cent. base and an upper part of 1670.

The river bridge was built by a Captain Cross in 1731. There is a steamboat service from the pier to Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight, and that brings many heedless visitors through this quaint and quiet place. The historian Gibbon was one of Lymington's M.P.s. A connexion with the mid-18th cent. is a house called Quadrille Court in St Thomas's Street. The officers of the Hessian corps, which had its headquarters in Lymington, are said to have met there to play quadrille, then a popular game. Naturally from its position the port had its share in the smuggling business. For Walhampton, on the opposite side of the harbour, see R. 8.

When we turn N. for Brockenhurst, about 1 m. out on our l. in the angle between the main road and one which forks l. is one of the most famous earthworks of the Forest, known as **Buckland Rings**. This pre-Roman camp of 7 acres is enclosed by triple banks of great strength, the inner banks commanding the outer, each bank being 8 ft above the crest of the one below it. The crest of the middle bank is very broad, 20–25 ft wide; so that the horizontal measurement of the triple entrenchment is nearly 50 yds (Williams-Freeman). From its W. gate, and old road, Silver Street, runs without break for 6 m. straight for Christchurch. As so often in these cases Roman remains, especially coins, have been found there. If time is available, fork r. to make a loop taking in **Boldre**, on the river, vicar of which was the Rev. William Gilpin, author of *Forest Scenery*. 'He did for the Forest much what White did for Selborne.' He died at the age of eighty in 1804; his grave is in the churchyard and his monument on a wall of the N. aisle in the church (St John), which stands apart, lonely and peaceful, on the hillside, obscured by ash trees and elms. Between S. aisle and nave are Norman arches, but the church was largely rebuilt in the 13th cent. The tower, with upper part rebuilt in 1697, is at E. end of the old S. aisle. Here also in a case against the wall is a bassoon purchased in 1776 and formerly used in the church services. In

this church the poet Southey in 1839 married his second wife Caroline Bowles, author of *Chapters on Churchyards*. You will not fail to note the picturesque old stone bridge over the river, with its four arches and projecting keystones.

Back from Boldre on to the main road at Batramsley Cross, we pass Setley Plain (l.) with three tumuli, and Setley Common (r.) coloured by gorse or broom or heather; then Whitley Ridge on the r., and so to **BROCKENHURST**, a junction of roads from E. and W., and on the main railway between Southampton and Bournemouth. To the r. is Brockenhurst Park and the mansion of the Morants, and the Lymington river beyond it; above this to the NW. the stream is known as the Highland Water. The old parish church is up a shady lane, like that of Boldre standing apart among trees, as a Forest church should do. The S. entrance is Norman, as is also the square Purbeck-marble font. The chancel dates c. 1300; N. aisle and brick tower and spire 18th cent. See a very fine yew tree in the yard. Brockenhurst has grown into a centre for visitors to the Forest, and its population has increased rapidly. In May or June you may catch the glory of the famous rhododendron avenue, but in almost any season the drive NW. – by a narrow road which has its seasonal moods – through Rhinefield and across the main Lyndhurst–Bournemouth road to Mark Ash Wood is recommended for its varied beauties.

Straight as a Roman road, though not one, is the road (A 337) N. to Lyndhurst. Balmer Lawn for New Forest golfers is on the r., and through woods and inclosures and Goose Green we arrive at **LYNDHURST**, a meeting place of six roads from six points of the compass – and the natural centre of the Forest (*Crown I, Grand I*). Here is held each year a show of pony stallions under the auspices of the Association for the Improvement of the Breed of New Forest Ponies. The ponies are said to be hardy and strong, agile and sure-footed, and pick up a living when an ordinary stable-

fed pony would starve. They enjoy young furze, and are immune from the brown Forest fly. The breed has been improved by preventing unsuitable stallions from roaming the Forest, and destroying foals and mares which are diseased or weakly. The church (St Michael's) stands high and has a lofty spire. At the E. end of the chancel is a wall painting by Lord Leighton – the Parable of the Ten Virgins. Leighton and Millais used to come sketching here. Glass by Morris is in the S. transept window, and by Kemp in the W. window. In the churchyard is buried Mrs Reginald Hargreaves, the original of *Alice in Wonderland*. Near the church is a fine, brick-built Queen Anne house, known as the King's House, once the residence of the Lord Warden of the Forest, and now a private residence. In the hall adjoining it the verderers hold their forest courts. A 17th-cent. stirrup-iron over the chimney-piece is foisted on to William Rufus! Lyndhurst is a manor of the Crown, and was a Forest settlement made in the time of the West Saxons.

Out of Lyndhurst take the NE. road, a perfectly straight run past Lyndhurst Road Station, crossing the boundary of the Forest at **Ashurst**, to Hunters Inn Hill, where the road (A 35) turns an angle a little more N. to **Totton**, a busy industrial village on the hither side of the Test. After crossing the river, be careful as to the right turnings on the outskirts of Southampton. Turn l. into A 3057 for Winchester and in  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. branch r. for Old Shirley, where turn r. and shortly l. at Blacksmiths' Arms. In 1 m. fork l. and keep straight ahead for Bassett (A.A. box) on Southampton–Winchester main road, and you are fixed for a direct run to **Chandler's** (once Challoner's) **Ford**, whence the road to Winchester is mainly on the line of a Roman one. The place is considered healthy, and in the last decade of the 19th cent. its population more than doubled itself: new villas and new pine trees. The ford is over the Monks' Brook. When **Otterbourne** is reached, the road is close to the Itchen (r.). This is a

pretty place having associations with John Keble, who held the living, and with the authoress, Charlotte M. Yonge. The modern church was altered at her expense; and a tall cross in the yard commemorates Keble. In memory of Miss Yonge a rood was erected over the screen in 1903. Two of her books bear on the neighbourhood: *Old Times at Otterbourne* and *John Keble and his Parishes*, the other two being Twyford and Hursley. The ivy-covered chancel of the old church is reached by a road down to the river, near the Moat House. The Otterbourne Park property belongs to Magdalen College, Oxford, which gave the site for the new church. To the l. of the main road is the beautiful **Cranbury Park**, where lived Sir Isaac Newton during the last years of his life. A sham ruin has been constructed with materials removed from Netley Abbey. Farther on we come to **Compton** (tun in a narrow valley) in a hollow of the Downs: the name fits like a glove. The small church (All Saints') is in a road (l.) leading up to Dummer's Farm and should be seen for its Norman (11th-cent.) nave and 13th-cent. chancel. Note the Norman arch in N. porch, a wall painting in a N. chancel window, and two piscinas. Restoration and enlargement 1905. See the board in N. porch setting forth the history of the church, and showing how the old building became a wide N. aisle. There is a roll of rectors from 1288. In the yard is buried George Huntingford, once a curate here, who was a Greek scholar and became Bishop of Gloucester, and preferred burial in the quiet place of his early ministrations. There is a good distant view of Winchester as you descend to St Cross.

**Route 8. – New Forest Walk: Brockenhurst station and SE.  
to Lymington station**

Out of Brockenhurst by the E. road along the N. of the Park, and at a T-cross turn r. along B 3055 for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., where at a sharp bend a path leads off r. (S.). Follow this round with, first, the gaunt pines of Perry Wood Inclosure, and then Round Hill on your l., between two tumuli, and straight across E. to the road B 3055 again. In  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. a track r. goes SE. across Lady Cross Walk, straight over a road (Hatchet Gate–Lymington), with the long Hatchet Pond, one of the few in the Forest, away to the l., for **East Boldre or Beaulieu Rails**. This little settlement was originally founded by trespassers and squatters on Forest land just outside the manor rails. A warden of the Forest tried to root out the little community, but in vain. Meeting a road, turn r. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. and just after a bend take path r. into Norley Wood, with oak plantation sheltered by pines. Go straight over the road SE. by path to road at East End. Turn r. again by road past S. Baddesley to Walhampton and so across the Lymington River to Lymington station. **Walhampton** (settlement by a stream) was for centuries the home of the Burrard family of soldiers, sailors, and politicians, which did much for the town and port of Lymington. A monument commemorates Sir Harry Burrard-Neale, M.P. for Lymington, 1794–1840.



## **Route 9. – New Forest Walk: Lyndhurst Road station and W. to Brockenhurst station**

LYNDHURST ROAD STATION – BARTLEY WATER –  
MINSTEAD – HIGHLAND WATER – QUEEN BOWER –  
BROCKENHURST (R. 7)

From Lyndhurst Road station go N. on the road A 35, and in the westward angle between this and the road to Woodlands take the westward track along the stream called Bartley Water, leaving Buskett's Lawn Inclosure r. and Irons Hill l. With a bend r. the track crosses the Water and brings you on to the Lyndhurst–Cadnam road. Turn r. (N.) for  $\frac{1}{4}$  m., and then opposite Furzy Lawn Inclosure take the road l. for the village of **Minstead** (place where mint grew). The church (All Saints') has a 13th-cent. chancel arch and N. door, 17th-cent. N. porch, 18th-cent. brick tower, and 19th-cent. S. transept. See on N. side family parlour pews, one with a fireplace and good font with Norman carving. Funeral barrows of the Bronze Age have been excavated in the neighbourhood. The Manor had a house connected with it in Winchester. Near the church is a path running S. through Manor Wood and giving on to a road, when turn l. (SE.) for c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., where take track l. keeping Pilmore Gate Heath on l. At a fork bear round l. on to a track going S., which brings you to the stream called Highland Water. This we follow all the way down to Brockenhurst. Cross straight over the Lyndhurst–Christchurch road (A 35). About  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. from this crossing you have Queen Bower Wood on r. At Bolderford Bridge the Ober Water from the W. joins the Highland Water, and in another m., with Black Knowl Moor to the l., you reach Balmer Lawn Hotel, a little N. of Brockenhurst. Queen Bower is a well-known fragment of forest woodland,

with New Park on the other side (E.) of the stream. The royal association is probably with Charles II, who 'gave lands and timber in this neighbourhood to maids-of-honour who caught his fickle fancy' (G. R. Tweedie). New Park was enclosed by him for his herd of red deer from France.

**Route 10. – New Forest Walk: Holmsley station W. to  
Ringwood station**

Seek ye yon glades, where the proud oak o’ertops  
Wide waving seas of birch and hazel copse,  
Leaving between deserted isles of land,  
Where stunted heath is patched with ruddy sand.

See Sir W. Scott on ‘Holmsley Scenery.’

From **Holmsley** station get on to A 35, and go S. across the Avon Water and take track r. through Holmsley Inclosure. Continue W. with Thorney Hill Holm on r. Cross a N.–S. road and bear NW. over Dur Hill Down with Lugden Barrow on l. Over the Down you will strike a track, on which turn l. – soon outside Forest bounds – and make due W. for Sandford. Just where this track falls into a road take the path N. and make for Crow. A few yards along the road W. take path r. and so into **Ringwood** (R. 6).

**Route 11. – New Forest Walk: Fordingbridge station to Ringwood station. The W. edge of the Forest, across Avon Brooks.**

**Fordingbridge** (orig. Ford, later Fordinga brycg, the bridge of the Ford people) is a pleasant little town, favoured by anglers (*Albany II*). Stay a minute or two on the old bridge over the Avon for a look round or to watch the swirling water, wherein are trout and pike – and salmon. Under William I a special guard was posted by the lord of the manor on the bridge to arrest deer stealers or suspects, as this was the only western route for ‘making a get-away’. Then, naturally, to the parish church, facing a wide street and approached by an avenue of pollarded limes. Picturesquely placed it has much of interest and has been well restored. Chancel (c. 1200–50), with low-side window on S. side; between chancel and N. chapel an arcade with graceful clustered shafts; beautiful roof in N. chapel, elaborately carved; nave and aisles c. 1300–50; tower 15th cent.; brass (1568) to Wm. Bulkeley, wife and eight children. The market has gone, but a fair is still held yearly on September 9. The Town Hall dates from 1879. There is a trade in cordage and sails, and unfortunately a brickfield to the W. There is here a quaint survival of early Wessex days, for the original seven tithings which were joined together to make the manor still prevail. In medieval times there was a St John’s Hospital, as at Basingstoke, for wayfarers, but it was absorbed by St Cross at Winchester, and there are no remains and few records. Another survival from a distant past is that the hundred, held by Wm Tracy, to this day gives the title of lord of the hundred to his heirs and assigns; and until 1878 a high constable of Fordingbridge Hundred was chosen yearly at the hundred court. So in spite of new villas and the scarcity of indications of antiquity, the place can give you something to

think about as you linger on the bridge. Cross the river eastward and take the centre of three roads, and bear round through Stuckton, and E. with Hyde Common on the r. This road ends at the Forest boundary. We take the track on the r. cross the Latchmore Brook and follow on SE. over the rise, and down to Splash Bridge over the Dockens Water. Then straight through the middle of Broomy Inclosure, turning SW. on Broomy Plain, and then proceed S. through Milkam Inclosure and over the Linford Brook. Here you have a 'camp' on the hill in front of you. Leave this on your r., and crossing another brook keep on S., until the track bends round r. (W.) and brings you back to the Linford Brook. Pass Linford Inclosure (l.) and then a road will take you by Hangersley Hill to the Cadnam-Ringwood road.

These suggested routes are but a few bites into the Forest: others, e.g. the NW. region of the Roman potteries and Ashley Walk, can be planned from the O.S. one-inch map.

## Route 12. – N. and W. of Fordingbridge

BREAMORE – HALE – DAMERHAM – ROCKBOURNE –  
MARTIN

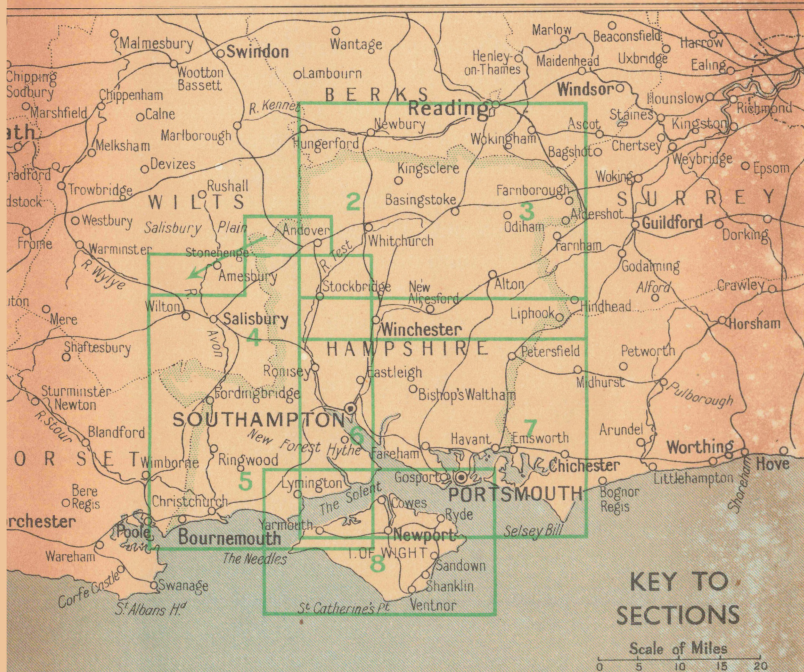
Fordingbridge is a good centre from which to visit a number of interesting villages and churches. Up the Avon valley, a 3-m. run brings us to **Breamore**. Here, in the Park, is one of Hampshire's most interesting Saxon churches. Over the S. door is a Rood, similar to that of Headbourne Worthy (R. 4). Like Headbourne, it was later protected by a porch and, like it, was mutilated at the Reformation. Over the S. transept arch is a Saxon inscription, which may be translated, 'Here is manifested the Word to thee.' The Manor House, a fine Elizabethan mansion of 1583, with interesting paintings and furniture, is open to visitors April to Sept., daily; Oct. to March, Wed., Thurs., and Sat.; 2–6.

Across the valley is **Hale**. The church, hiding among the wooded slopes of the Park, is difficult to find, but is worth visiting as it is chiefly the work of Thomas Archer, the architect of Birmingham Cathedral, a pupil of Wren. His handsome monument is within.

To the W. of Fordingbridge is some delightful Downland country, which was transferred from Wilts in 1895. Three m. brings us to **Damerham**, whose church has a Norman tower and a finely carved tympanum of the same date, over the S. door, showing St George, to whom the church is dedicated. One m. to the N. is **Rockbourne**, a charming village with pretty cottages facing a stream which runs down its street. The church (St Andrew's) is on a hillside to the N. and has a Norman door and some 13th-cent. work. To the N. of it is the manor, with a chapel of 13th-cent. date.

Six m. NW. of Fordingbridge is **Martin**, westernmost of all Hampshire villages. It is a pleasant place among the Downs, with Wilts and Dorset quite close, and has many good stone cottages and a church chiefly of 14th-cent. date.

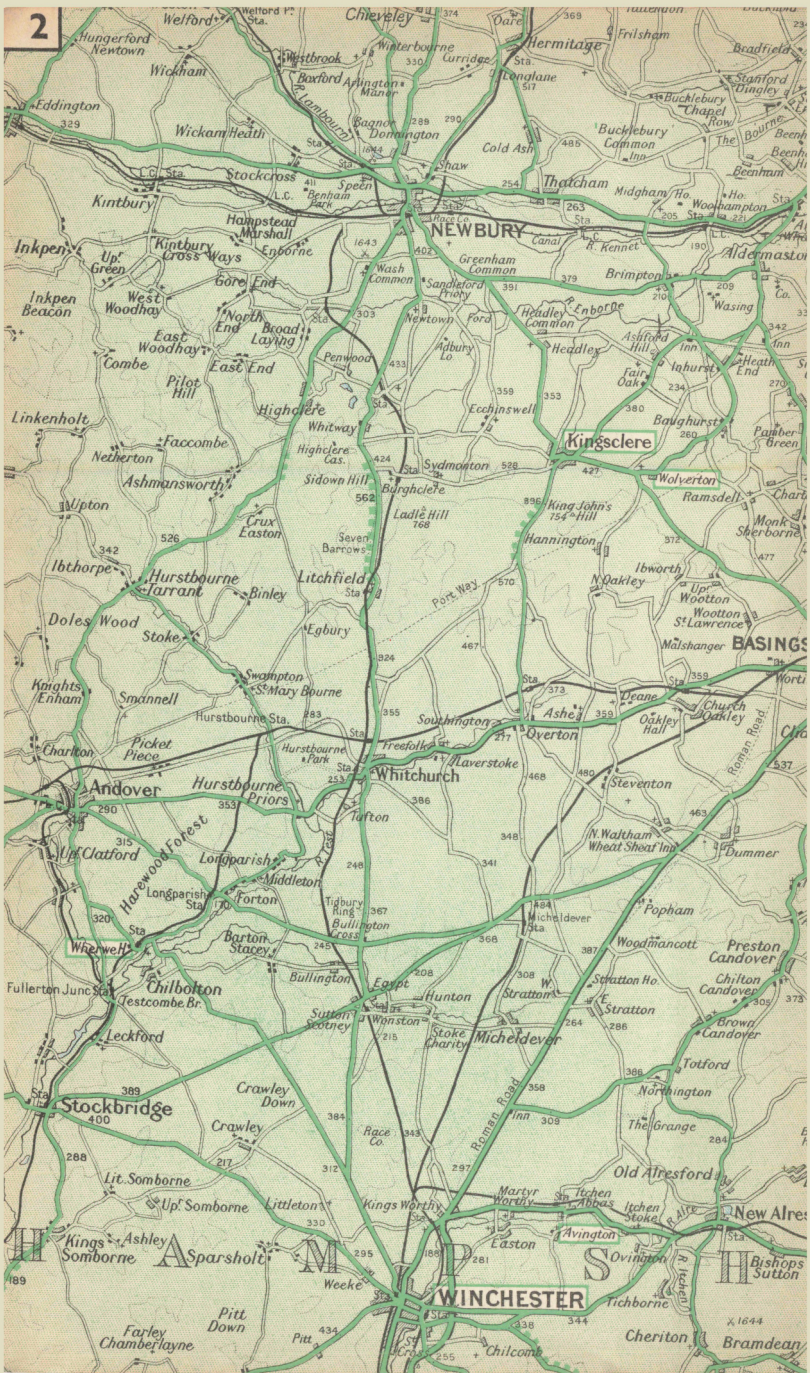
# TOURING MAPS OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT



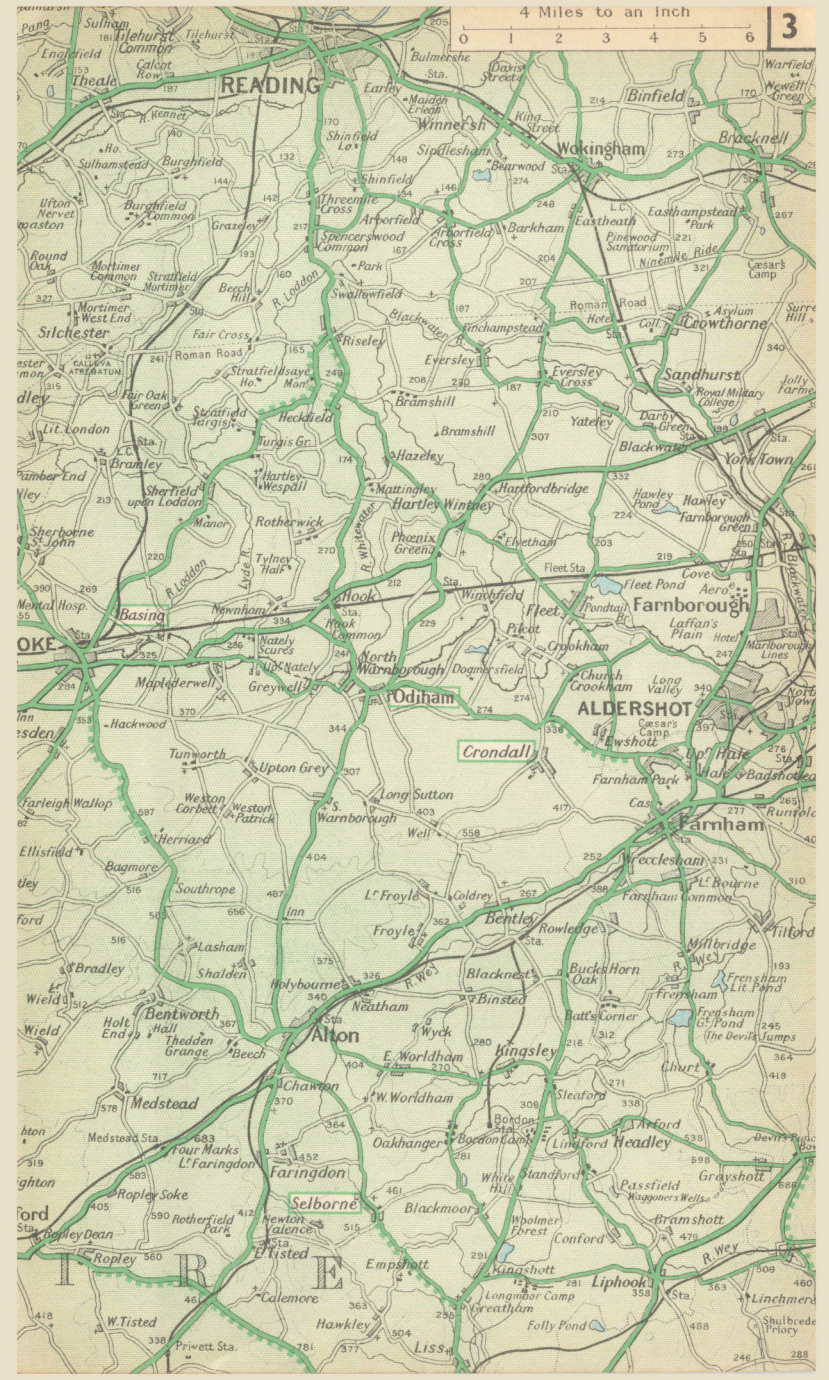
## NOTE TO MAP SECTIONS

|                     |  |                    |                  |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Main Roads          |  | Places of Interest | <i>Hambleton</i> |
| Other Roads         |  | Railways           |                  |
| Picturesque Roads   |  | County Boundaries  |                  |
| Heights in feet 275 |  |                    |                  |





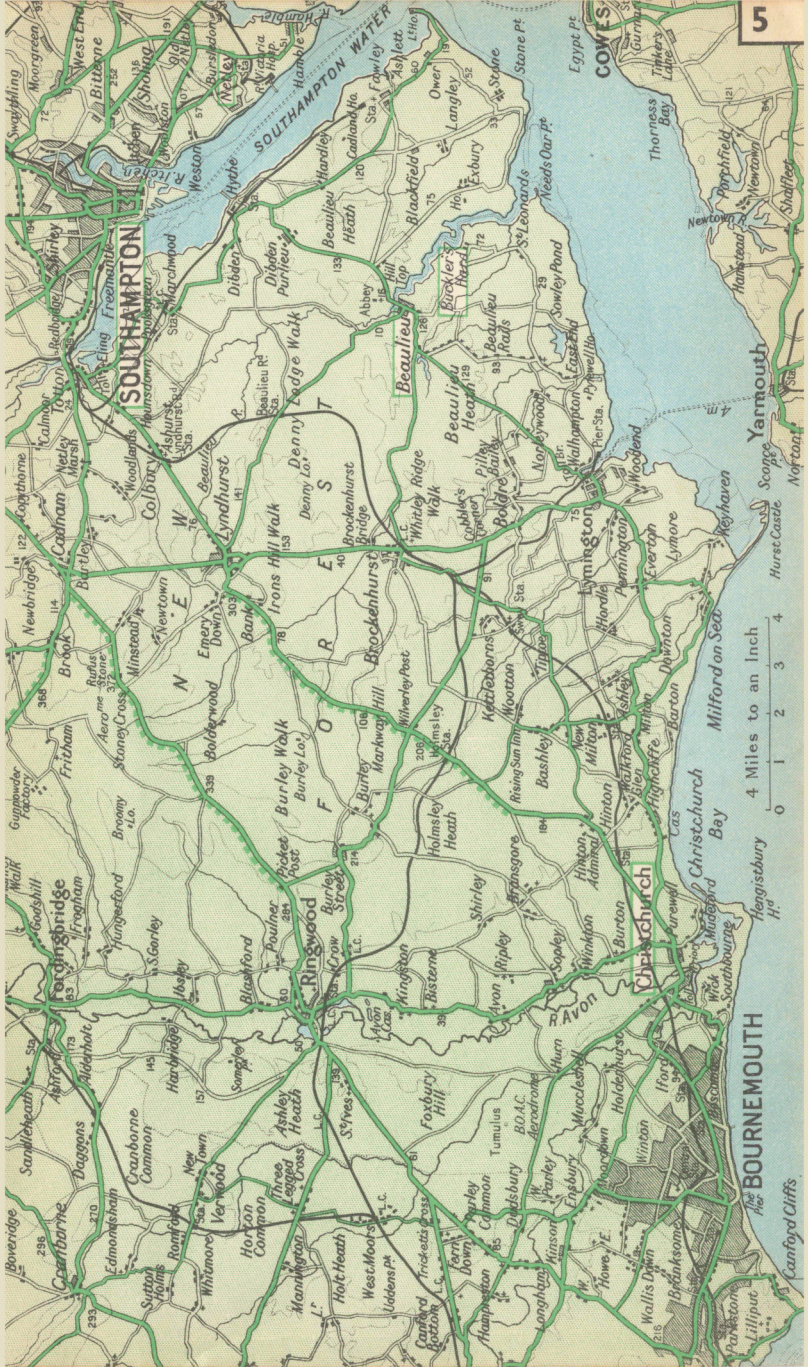












4 Miles to an Inch  
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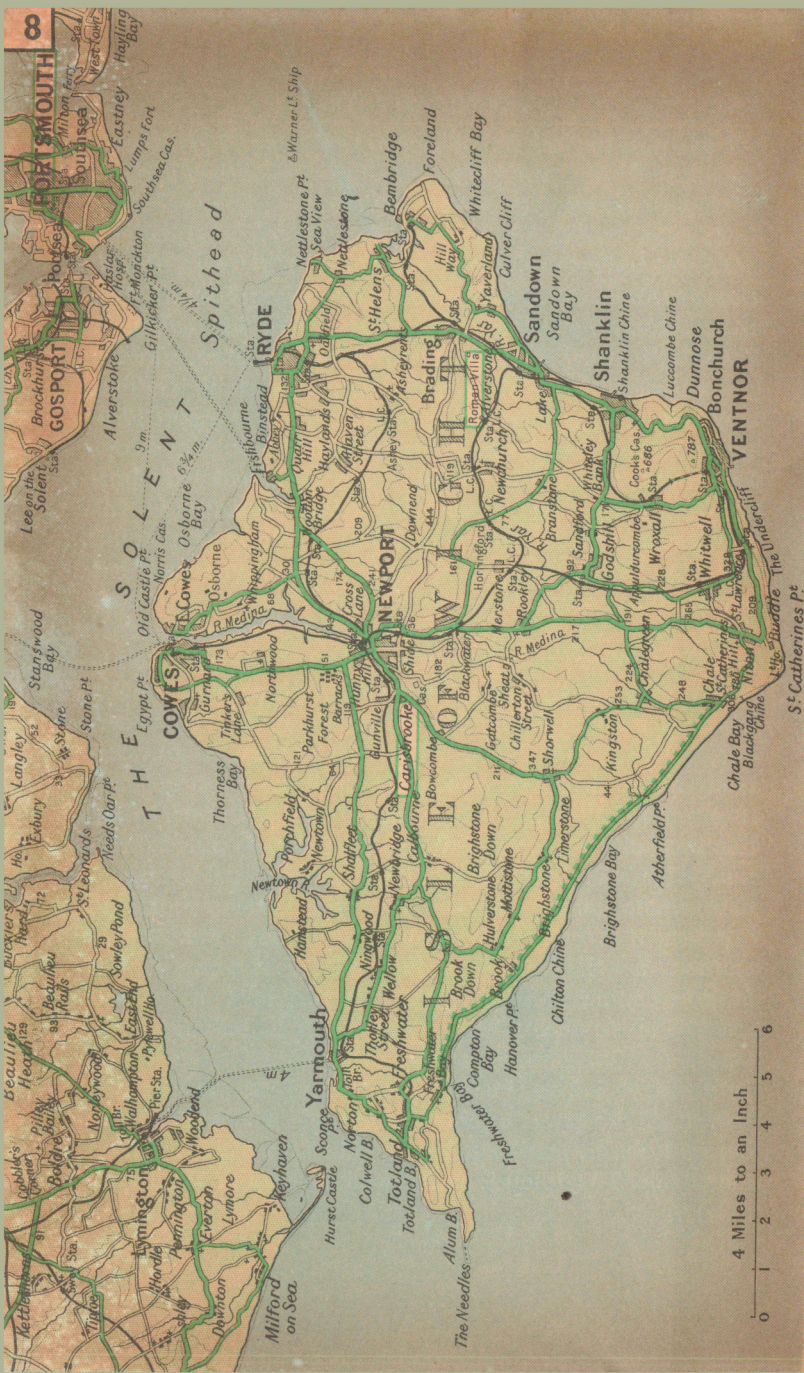




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Selsey Bill





## 4 Miles to an Inch

## SOUTHAMPTON

**SOUTHAMPTON** (*Polygon, Royal, I; Court Royal, Dolphin, Hamtun House, II*) dates actually from Saxon times, but the Romans had a fortified station called *Clausentum* at Bitterne, a little to the NE., remains of which are in the grounds of Bitterne Manor House; the possibility is that they occupied the peninsula of Southampton as a port serving Roman Winchester, Silchester, and Old Sarum, and connected by road with Portchester. Clausentum had two parallel N.-S. straight lines of defence of 500 yds and 350 yds long, enclosing an outer area of 20, and an inner of 10 acres. The inner defence was a wide ditch and masonry wall 9 ft thick, with a round tower of solid masonry at each end. Similar walls were round the other three sides of the inner area. These observations were made in 1805. It has recently been proved by excavation that the earliest occupation was in Claudian times; that the inner wall dates 364-78 or later, and the outer bank 367-83 or later. The West Saxons certainly settled here, called the place their home town (Hamtun), and used it as a base for penetrating the interior. In 840 Ethelwulf dated a charter from the 'royal town called Hamtun,' already important enough to give its name, Hamtun-scire, to the county. Athelstan established a mint there and it is clear that the port was much used in Saxon times. The Danes attacked it unsuccessfully in 837, and again in 860; but towards the end of the 10th cent. the harassed inhabitants at last gave in, welcomed the Danes and supported Cnut.

When the Normans came, a new stone wall was built N. and E. of the town, excluding the parts where the kings' houses stood by the West Quay and St Julian's Hospital on the S. side. They built a castle, with its keep on the Saxon

D—H. & IW.

mound; but as this was of loose material and near the W. sandy cliff, the sea wall was strengthened by very strong arched vaults, parts of which remain. They also built the original Bar Gate with gate-house above; the central arch of this and part of two flanking turrets remain incorporated with later additions. Soon a church was built in the French quarter – and the Normans predominated – dedicated to St Michael, patron saint of Normandy. Of this we still see the four massive tower arches. There still exist in the town some of the many stone vaults used by the Normans for the storage of wine; the stone used was chiefly Bembridge limestone from the Isle of Wight.

The religious life of the town was influenced by the foundation by Henry I of the Priory of St Denys, which he endowed with four churches, among them St Michael's. The Franciscan friars settled in Southampton c. 1237. In the 12th cent. was founded the Hospital of St Julian, or God's House.

The oldest institution of Southampton was its court-leet, dating from long before the Norman Conquest, and the basis on which the later privileges of the borough were founded. Such privileges were confirmed by its first charter under Henry I and by subsequent kings till Charles I. Commercial prosperity was great under the Norman and Angevin kings, who had houses in the borough; one of these close to West Quay exists, and is a fine example of Norman architecture. The greatest disaster in the town's medieval history occurred in 1338. When Edward III was invading France, the French retaliated by attacking Southampton in force, plundering and burning with little resistance. It was then that the king's houses were destroyed, with the exception mentioned. Embarkation of armies for France took place in 1346, 1378, and 1415; on this last occasion the plot against the life of Henry V was discovered just before the departure, and the three noble conspirators were executed



at Southampton and buried in the chapel of St Julian. In 1432 a French assault was successfully resisted. The medieval trade of Southampton was chiefly in wine and wool; the old Woolhouse in which the wool was weighed still remains. Until mid 16th cent. the great foreign traders here were the Venetians, their expeditions being organized by the Venetian state. They brought oriental goods – spices, Indian cotton, and silks – and took wool, leather, Winchester cloths, and tin.

In 1554 Philip of Spain stayed four days here before joining Queen Mary at Winchester. The town gradually acquired jurisdiction over the port, which was originally very extensive, from Langstone (E.) to Hurst (W.), including the whole of the N. of the Solent as well as Southampton Water. The burgesses held an admiralty court, and the Mayor as admiral of the port had an oar carried before him. The silver oar still carried as one of the Corporation's maces is an emblem of this ancient dignity. By a charter of 1447 the town was made into a county, 'County of the town of Southampton,' when the burgesses gained the privilege they still exercise of electing a sheriff to represent the Crown. The 16th and 17th cent. were a period of decline in Southampton's maritime trade, and the plague of 1663 was a very serious blow. James I sold the site in 1618 for the precise sum of £2078 and 1½*d.*, and in 1805 the old castle was replaced by a red-brick structure, which in its turn was demolished in 1863. During the 18th cent. there was a short revival when the town, like Lymington, became a fashionable seaside resort, and Assembly Rooms, Martin's Baths, the Spa, etc. were built like those at Bath. With the advent of the railway in 1840 commerce made a fresh and vigorous start, since when prosperity has gone forward at a rapid rate. The Docks were opened by the L. and S.W.R. in 1843, and the population, which was in 1801 only 7600, is now over 178,000. The port is probably the greatest for sea-passenger traffic in England.

During the bad raids of 1940–1, Southampton was one of

the principal sufferers among the big towns. Large areas of the town, especially on either side of the High Street, were laid low and there was distressing loss of life. The ancient monuments of the town, however, largely escaped and the Bar Gate, most famous of them all, emerged unscathed.

Modern Southampton claims, like Dover, to be the gateway of England. It has great new Docks, including the King George V Graving Dock to the W., the largest in the world, the municipal Air Port at Swaythling, fine buildings of the Civic Centre, some departments of the Ordnance Survey, and golf courses and sports centre at Bassett. The Town Quay, owned by the Southampton Harbour Board, is near the Docks on the Test, and close by is the Royal Pier. The University College, incorporated 1902, is at Highfield, near the Common (N.), which is a mile in length and the largest of several public open spaces. The New Art Gallery, opened in April, 1939, is fully equipped with a permanent collection of pictures by Gainsborough, De Wint, Opie, Lawrence, Madox Brown, Herkomer, Sickert, and others. Such is the Southampton of which we now try to see something.

The town has grown up from ancient times between the Test (W.) and the Itchen (E.), and the port has an exceptional blessing – a double tide, i.e. high water running at the same height for over two hours. N.B. – There are plenty of car parks, e.g. for Docks, Pier, and High Street (or Below Bar), Canute road; for Above Bar, West Bargate, and others. The *Bar Gate*, once the N. Gate, has a core which dates from the Conquest; on the N. front the central arch is 14th cent., and the S. side has an amusing statue of George III as a Roman. To avoid heavy traffic at the bottom of Lower High Street, turn r. below Bar at traffic control into St Michael's Square (car park). Close at hand are St Michael's Church, Tudor House Museum, and at the back of the latter through the garden the Norman House.

For the old walls and towers go along the Western

Esplanade and see the arcaded Walls, West Gate (14th cent.), Arundel Tower, and Catchcold Tower, N. of which was the Norman castle. The beautiful embattled arcade, 90 yds long and 30 ft high, of nineteen shallow arches was constructed after the French incursion of 1338. Up Blue Anchor Postern are ancient buildings, one of which is called '*King John's Palace*', and it existed in his time; by some it is thought to be the oldest house in England, though it was neither palace nor King John's. It is shown by masonry and other details to belong to the early 12th cent., being earlier than the well-known Jews' Houses at Lincoln or Minster in Thanet. Roofless, it is a plain, square stone building on a lower level than the garden, entered from Blue Anchor Lane by a semicircular-headed doorway, over which is a label or dripstone. The windows are divided by baluster shafts. The house suffered from the French raid of October 4, 1338; afterwards over the W. front was erected part of the arcaded walls.

We return to the *Tudor House* and St Michael's Church. The former has been a museum since 1912. It was built (1535) by Harry Huttoft, mayor in 1525 and 1534, and a client of Thomas Cromwell, as both house of business and private residence; hence two front doors on St Michael's Square. He was chief officer of Customs and died in 1542. In the banqueting hall note the typical stone-arched fireplace, panelled roof in first-floor rooms and Norman masonry in cellar walls. The house was rebuilt on Norman and possibly earlier foundations. (Pamphlet 3d., by Prof. F. J. C. Hearnshaw.) *St Michael's Church* has an 18th-cent. octagonal stone spire, lofty, strange to view, and a rarity. The interior is impressive, if bizarre, the four Norman tower arches inevitably focusing attention. Note at the W. end of N. wall an effigy monument behind stone columns, and the fine font of Tournai black marble, one of seven brought to England in the 12th cent., of which Hants has four – Winchester Cathedral, East

Meon, St Mary Bourne, and this: on its W. side are the symbols of SS. Matthew, Mark, and John, on the other side grinning beasts. After seeing these buildings walk down Bugle Street to the Town Quay for walls and towers, etc. as mentioned above, turning l. for the so-called '*Canute's Palace*' in Porter's Lane, and for the *Hospital of St Julian or God's House*, in Winkle Street. The old buildings were swept away by Queen's College, Oxford, to whom was given custody in 1343, and 19th-cent. houses erected for four brothers and four sisters; the chapel, assigned to refugee Walloons in 1567, has been drastically restored. The congregation still uses the Church of England liturgy, in French. 'The records of this community are the oldest of any Huguenot settlement in England.' To the r. are the arcaded walls. In front of the Royal Pier is the tall *Pilgrim Father's Monument* surmounted by a sailing ship, another to an heroic stewardess, and the 14th-cent. *Woolhouse*, with semicircular buttresses on W. side. Returning to car park go up Western Esplanade to the *Civic Centre*, a recently-built spectacular set of white stone buildings. The car park is on the E. side, opposite the Guildhall, which has a portico of six tall columns with Ionic capitals. Round the corner facing West Park in Commercial Road are the *Public Library and Art Gallery*, opened in 1939 by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. The cost of the building, which has very well lighted galleries, and an endowment for purchase of pictures, came from the Chipperfield bequest. The permanent collection is housed in rooms 5-8, while 1-4 are reserved for loan exhibitions. Other buildings are municipal offices and law courts. To be seen 11-12 and 3-4, except Sat. afternoon, Sun., and Bank Holidays. The *Guildhall*, lofty and quietly decorated, has a fine organ, and is the social centre for concerts, balls, and dramatic entertainments.

Of the other churches, *St Mary's*, designed by Street, was built 1879-84 on the site of the old mother church as a

memorial to Bp Wilberforce and was burnt out during the bad raid of 1940; *Holy Rood* with tower and spire of 1320 was also burnt. The *Congregational Chapel*, Above Bar, now destroyed, was built on the site of a Nonconformist Meeting House of 1662, of which Isaac Watts was deacon. His son Isaac composed 'O God our Help in Ages Past,' played on the carillon at the Civic Centre.

For permission to see the *Docks* apply at No. 5 Dock Gate, Canute Road. When big liners are on view, permits are normally obtainable from the Shipping Officer. You can see shipping and yachts from the Royal Pier, but better perhaps by taking a trip on the ferry to Hythe, which starts from the Town Quay every half hour, return fare 1s. 3d.

Going out N. you pass through the fine tree-lined Avenue, which runs over the Common of 333 acres, since Saxon days part of the common lands of the liberty.

In brief, Southampton is a very lively place full of all kinds of interests and wants a lot of beating. Obviously it is a capital centre for expeditions in the neighbourhood, especially the New Forest: Lyndhurst 9 m., Brockenhurst 13, Beaulieu 13½ by road, Rufus Stone 10, Netley Abbey 3, Romsey 8½, Winchester 12, and Cowes by steamer from Royal Pier. The Corporation issues an *Official Guide to Southampton and the New Forest*.

### Route 13. – Round SW. from Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON – ELING – DIBDEN – FAWLEY – CAL-  
SHOT – BEAULIEU – BUCKLER'S HARD

From **Southampton** go out W. by Redbridge and Totton with its steam mills, when turn l. for **Eling** (Domesday, Edlinges, Edla's folk), an early West Saxon settlement, where St Mary's church (rest. 1865), standing above the village, retains much that is Norman, though most of it is Dec. The arch in the N. aisle is pre-Domesday: but the Norman tower was rebuilt in 15th cent. It was a big Norman church with nave, aisles, and transepts. Note painting of Last Supper (over altar) of Venetian school, c. 1520 and two quaint 18th-cent. headstones moved into church from outside to protect them. There are pretty views from the yard over the low ground, a pleasant if flat country. In medieval times a large manor here was held by the service of carrying the king's writs sent to Wight, Christchurch, Ringwood, and Fordingbridge. The manor of Bury, near the shore, had the service of presenting a brace of white greyhounds, in silver couples, when the king hunted in the New Forest; and one Cobbe, smith of the Crown, held land by the annual payment of fifty arrows. Fork l. for Marchwood, where cross the rail and turn l. along it to **Dibden** (deep valley). The church was gutted in a raid during the winter of 1940–1 but preserves some 13th-cent. work. Note another quaint 18th-cent. headstone SE. of church. The road curves round at the back of **Hythe** (ferry to Southampton), and here is a good prospect over Southampton Water to Netley Castle and Hospital, perhaps best seen at a distance. Dibden Bottom (W.) is a great bog whose sodden recesses are carpeted with

mosses and grasses, bog-myrtle, and orange asphodel. **Fawley**, 3 m. S., has a huge oil-refinery, and a Norman church which was severely damaged in a raid during the winter of 1940-1, the chancel being gutted. Two m. to the SE. is **Calshot Castle**, at the entrance to Southampton Water, now an R.A.F. station. It was erected by Henry VIII. From Hythe take the road to Langdown and fork r., and soon enter the Forest at Beaulieu Heath East. There are several tumuli both sides of the road. It is a bleak level of heather, where New Forest ponies get hardy on salt sea breezes, and self-sown firs sprinkle the landscape. Our point of view differs widely from that of Wm Cobbett, always keen on turnips, who writes in *Rural Rides*, 'A poorer spot than this New Forest there is not in all England, nor I believe in the whole world.' Along the E. side runs a reputed Roman road from Lepe; a causeway  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. long is seen between Holbury (S.) and Dibden Purlieu (N.). Keep on S. by B 3054 to the junction of four roads, where we leave the Forest bounds for a time and make straight on for **Beaulieu**, with its Abbey, Palace House, tidal mill, and hotel (*Montagu Arms II*). Lord Montagu of Beaulieu is Lord of the Manor, a domain delightful, though since motors began it is not the haven of quiet it was. Even Cobbett found a good word to say of it. The name means beautiful place (*bellus locus Regis*, 1205), but its pronunciation as Bewley, if English, is not beautiful. The Abbey was founded for Cistercians in 1204 by King John, the church consecrated 1227, and the convent buildings finished 1246. The foundations of the church, demolished at the Dissolution, are marked out in chalk on the grass: it was 336 ft long, and 186 wide at transepts. On the S. side, the usual position, was the cloister garth, 138 ft square. The W. range contained refectory and dormitory of the lay brothers, and this was, as so often, later adapted as a residence. On the E. remain the three pointed arches of three orders that opened into the chapter-house. The refectory of the monks was on the S.

side, not lying E.-W., but N.-S. in Cistercian style. This has become the parish church; note the very fine, and almost unique, stone reader's pulpit (early 13th cent.) on W. side. The end with little bell-cote, three E.E. lancet windows, doorway mouldings, and a pair of side windows makes a very pretty picture. Parts of the precinct walls can be seen N. and E. Lord Montagu's Palace House was converted from the great Abbey Gate House and a 14th-cent. groined hall. The Conduit House at Hill Top, which supplied the Abbey with water, is still in use, and S. of the cloister are remains of the cloister lavatory. The Abbey had important sanctuary rights, and one of those who claimed them (this time vainly) was the misguided Perkin Warbeck (1497) after his futile insurrection. It fell to the share of Wriothesley after the Dissolution, and passed by marriage to the Montagus. In medieval times the monks cultivated vineyards here, as at Winchester, Hurstbourne Priors, and East Meon. If you can find time to run down the W. side of the Beaulieu Creek to **Buckler's Hard** (*The Master-BUILDER's House II*), it would be worth while, though the place is best seen from the Southampton boat and there is a pleasant footpath beginning in the main street of Beaulieu. A short, wide street is bordered by red gabled houses, and ends at an old landing stage. *Illustrious*, *Agamemnon*, *Swiftsure*, and *Euryalus*, of Trafalgar fame, were built here and towed to Portsmouth by sailors in rowing boats. A Duke of Montagu in the early 18th cent. had a great scheme to connect the place with an industrial town for the refinement of West Indies sugar, but it fell through. Remnants of the old slipways, however, can still be seen emerging from the sand and seaweed. After the War of 1914-18 the river was reorganized, and is now under a Harbour Master; in summer yachts lie up to Buckler's Hard and as far as the Brick Works. The sole authority over the river rests in the Beaulieu estate. The owner's rights are precisely those granted by King John to the monks, as confirmed by various



sovereigns, including ownership of the bed of the river, flotsam, jetsam and lamen, and of the foreshore, rights of wreck, shooting, and fishing. Further, see *Creeks and Harbours of the Solent*, by K. K. Adlard Coles (Edw. Arnold).

### Route 14. – Round SE. from Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON – WOOLSTON – NETLEY ABBEY –  
HOUND – BURSLEDON – TITCHFIELD – FAREHAM –  
SOUTHWICK – WICKHAM – SHEDFIELD – BOTLEY –  
SOUTHAMPTON

From Southampton by Itchen ferry to **Woolston**, with a church erected 1863. At Old Netley turn r. for Netley, Abbey and Castle (r.). **Netley** was formerly Letley (deserted clearing). The Abbey, founded by Henry III in 1239, was occupied by Cistercian monks from Beaulieu. At the Dissolution it was given to Sir Wm Paulet, first Marquess of Winchester, comptroller of the royal household. The beautiful remains, well protected, consist of the church (except N. transept removed to Cranbury Park and re-erected there as a sham ruin) of various periods of the 13th cent. The most admired parts are E. window of choir and clerestory of S. transept. There was a central tower on which was a fire-beacon for sailors on Southampton Water. The cloister garth, S. of the church, is 115 ft square, surrounded by buildings on the Cistercian plan (see Beaulieu). Here also are three arches to the chapter-house. Remains of the Abbot's Lodge are at the E. end of the grounds.

'Netley Castle' was the gateway of the Abbey, but was made into a fort by Henry VIII, to which a tower has been added (19th cent.). Netley Hospital is 1 m. S. This great military hospital, first built (1856–7) for the wounded in the Crimean War, is a vast building with a long façade of over  $\frac{1}{4}$  m.

Pass the Hospital and follow the road N. **Hound**, where the monks of Netley held a weekly market, has a small E.E. church (c. 1225–50), well worth a visit for its wooden belfry supported on four great beams inside the church. See the

13th-cent. font and old yew tree in the yard. On the main road turn r. from **Bursledon** at the head of the Hamble Creek, famous for yachtsmen, lobsters, crabs, and oysters: of the last the Priors of Hamble used to pay an annual tribute of 20,000 to St Swithun's. There is a fine bridge on the Fareham road. In 1875 in the mud of the Hamble was found a large Danish war-boat. From the days of Alfred to those of Nelson ships were built along its shores as at Buckler's Hard on the Beaulieu Creek. Bursledon is best seen when the tide is up. The church of St Leonard, well restored 1888, has a good Norman font and wall painting of the Resurrection. If you favour strawberries, come here in June and get them straight from the gardens. Bursledon had its Roman villa to the S. close to the Hamble.

It is a run of c. 4 m. SE. to **Titchfield** (open ground where kids were kept), on the Meon River, here labelled River Titchfield (*Bugle II*). The interesting church (St Peter) has Saxon long-and-short work in the lower part of the W. tower, which has three bonding courses of Roman tiles, and SW. angle of the nave. It was enlarged in 12th cent., of which date is the beautiful Norman W. doorway. The rectory and manor were granted (1222) as an endowment of an abbey of Premonstratensian canons, founded close to the river,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of the town, by Peter de Roches, Bp of Winchester, and colonized from Halesowen, Worcs. Another house of this order, originating at Prémontré in France, is St Radegund's, Dover. The S. chapel in Dec. style, 1320 and 1370, was called the Abbot's Chapel. Note especially the N. aisle arcade, and in S. chapel, where hangs a S. African War Union Jack, a splendid monument in alabaster to the first Countess of Southampton and to the first and second Earls. The third Earl was the friend and patron of Shakespeare, who dedicated to him *Venus and Adonis* in 1593. The N. aisle, attributed to William of Wykeham, is a fine specimen of early 15th-cent. architecture. The piers of the four bays have tall and

slender clusters of Caen stone. There are six fine Perp. windows. On the N. walls is a 1914 War memorial by Sir C. Nicholson. The S. aisle, originally of 13th-cent. Norman construction, was rebuilt in 14th-cent. style in 1866. In the church register, under 1593, 1637, and 1645, are entries under the name Gobbo, a Titchfield family, and at the foot of the lectern is a stone to Sir William Beeston, a name often occurring in the registers. These two names seem to confirm the tradition that Shakespeare stayed at Titchfield, for the name of Lancelot Gobbo in *Merchant of Venice* is an extraordinary one, and his friend and fellow actor was a William Beeston.

Sir Thomas Wriothesley, who annexed Beaulieu, also took Titchfield Abbey at the Dissolution, demolished most of the abbey church, and built a square gatehouse with three-storeyed corner turrets across the centre of the nave; the refectory became his hall. Of Place (=palace) House, once in distinguished hands but long deserted, little but the Gatehouse, now under the Ministry of Works, remains. Foundations of the Cloister Court, including medieval tiles, have been excavated. Among royal visitors were Edward VI, Elizabeth I, and Charles I with his Queen. Titchfield, as becomes an ancient market town, is quaint, and has delightful old houses – half-timbered, plastered, occasionally with projecting upper storeys. In Norman days Titchfield was a seaport.

Now due E. to **Fareham** (fern homestead) on a NW. creek of Portsmouth Harbour. This position and its commercial facilities have made Fareham what it is, business-like but not attractive; as it went along, it cleared away its antiquities. The river Wallington, which collects its waters in the Forest of Bere, flows into the creek. Fareham is an old market-town and seaport, and was a parliamentary borough under Edward I. Vessels of 300 tons can lie at the quay. Mills, tanneries, potteries, etc., are its staple; there was a mill work-

ing in 1086, and the Romans appear to have made bricks here. The Jutes who settled in the Meon Valley (see p. 71) probably made landings here as well as up Southampton Water. St Peter's church has a large modern nave on the site of a Georgian structure of 1812, a 17th-cent. brick tower, a Victorian chancel, to the N. of which the old 13th-cent. chancel now forms a side chapel. At the NE. corner is some Saxon 'long-and-short' work. The closing of Portsmouth Harbour during the War of 1914-18 killed Fareham's coastal trade in corn, timber, and whitening, but it is now becoming a yachting centre, and has received a government contract for building a ship.

The best way to **Southwick** is along the Cosham road and l. in centre of Portchester. We go steeply over Portsdown by Nelson's Monument. The very picturesque village lies between the N. and E. branches of the Wallington River, with Southwick House and park to the E. Its chief charm is its great variety of old-world cottages disposed in a delightful irregularity. Hither was removed from Portchester the priory of Austin canons founded by Henry I. The Prior, as lord of the manor and rector of the church, had rights of market and fair in Southwick, as well as of gallows and assize of bread and ale. By Henry VI he was granted forest rights in Bere. People made pilgrimage to a famous image of B.V.M., 'Our Lady of Southwick', to which Henry VIII passing through made an offering of 6s. 8d. The still-existing seal of the priory has on the obverse the words: *Sit pro Suthwika mediatrix Virgo pudica, Et pax angelica: sit nobis semper amica*. (For Southwick may the chaste Virgin mediate, and angelic peace: may she always be our friend.) When surrendered, the priory was made over to John White, first Steward of Portsmouth, a time-server of Wriothesley. As usual in these cases, he pulled down the convent church and adapted the prior's lodgings and other buildings as his house. Overgrown with trees, a few remains are E. of the village. The parish church

(St James) can show a remarkable altar-piece of cherubs round a dove (c. 1700). Two brass candlesticks belonged to the priory church. The arcades are 13th cent.; N. of chancel a table-tomb has brass effigies of man and wife, inscribed to 'John Whyte, first owner of ye priory and manor of Southwick after ye surrender.' These seem to have been stolen from the priory church, and used by his executors to celebrate White. It was in the chapel of White's house during morning prayers that Charles I was told of the murder of 'Steenie', Duke of Buckingham, at Portsmouth. After the Whites the property passed to the Nortons. Roman remains were found close N. of the park and of the Roman road between Havant and Wickham. Southwick is the 'south wick' (borrowed by the Saxons from Lat. *vicus*) or village, 'south' in relation to the territory of the Meonwara. Where the road turns for Wickham there is a good m. of straight which represents the Roman road. For the run Wickham, Shedfield, Botley, Southampton, see R. 6.

**Route 15. – SE. Hants. Round from Havant: Portsmouth and the Forest of Bere**

HAVANT – WARBLINGTON – HAYLING – PORTSMOUTH  
and SOUTHSEA – COSHAM – PORTCHESTER – WATER-  
LOOVILLE – HORNDEN – HAVANT THICKET – ROW-  
LAND'S CASTLE – IDSWORTH – HAVANT

**Havant** (Hama's spring) is on the modern Chichester-Southampton road, and on the Chichester-Bitterne (Southampton) Roman road: the latter forked a little more N. at Bedhampton. Havant (*Bear II*) is placed close to the head of Langstone Harbour and the Emsworth Channel of Chichester Harbour, between which two is Hayling Island. This old market-town round four cross-roads prospers, and its population increases. The cruciform church (rest. 1874) has a 13th-cent. chancel vaulted with clunch chalk, with supporting shafts of Purbeck marble. In it see the brass of Thomas Aylward, rector (1418), and secretary and executor to Bp William of Wykeham. Havant was an episcopal manor; Henry VI confirmed the right of the Bp of Winchester to hold a market and fair here. A few years ago a large Roman villa was excavated S. of the town. Havant is featured in Conan Doyle's *Micah Clarke*.

One m. SE., down a lane to r. of the Emsworth road, is **Warblington**, with a fragment of a castle (15th cent.), near which is the interesting church, on the shore of Langstone Harbour. It has a Saxon tower, timber N. porch (14th cent.) and contains a lady's effigy (14th cent.). Note in churchyard (E. of church) quaint headstone to William Palmer (1759), with capsizing ship.

A short excursion worth making from Havant is to **Hayling Island**, reached by a swing bridge (1824). In mediæval days there was a hermitage, the hermit performing the

duty of guiding travellers across the dangerous wadeway; while near Emsworth was another who did the same for Thorney. The long sandy S. sea-front of the island makes good bathing, and **South Hayling** is becoming a seaside resort. The church (rest. 1868) is interesting and mainly of early 13th-cent. date. Note clerestory to nave, arcades, king-post roof, exceptional S. timber porch (15th cent.), fine tracery in windows at E. end of aisle, Purbeck marble font, and fine old yew tree near S. porch. Note also curious carvings of the 'base-spurs' of the nave columns. At **North Hayling** is another church of the 13th cent. which also has a good timber N. porch of the 15th cent.

The island belonged to the Winchester church of St Swithun in the time of Bp. Alwyn (1032-43), but the Conqueror gave it to the Norman Abbey of Jumièges. A colony of monks was imported to manage the property and a priory was built for them by Wm Fitz-Osborne, that they might pray for the souls of the king and himself; but the sea encroached on their good lands on the W. coast, and finally their church and buildings were engulfed by the sea. Smaller buildings were then erected, but in 1413 the property was made over to the Carthusian priory of Sheen. The E. side also, called Manhode, was submerged in the Middle Ages. The story goes that the bells of the submerged church occasionally send back to the land their ancient sounds, just as a submarine peal from bells sunk in Chichester Harbour responds to the peal from Bosham. Smuggling traditions also obtain.

Portsmouth and Southsea are situated on Portsea Island. **Southsea** (*Queen's I.*, and many other hotels), a very popular seaside resort, lies along the southern or seaward end of the island. From the front, with its spacious green, fine views can be obtained across Spithead, with its interesting shipping, to the E. end of the Isle of Wight.

**PORTSMOUTH** proper, Portsea, Southsea, and Land-



port (E.) together make up the city of Portsmouth. In Roman times Portchester (Portus Magnus), with its protecting fort of the Saxon Shore called Portus Adurni, did the harbour business, but Portsmouth, not mentioned in Domesday, had its incorporation as a borough (1193) from Richard I. There was important shipbuilding there in the reign of King John, and Henry II landed there ten times. Fortified at various times, it has developed into the chief station for England's Royal Navy. The harbour's great convenience is that at lowest tide it can float the entire navy. Landward, on Portsdown, is a line of forts and barracks. The dockyard is the largest in the world; the museum here can be visited from 9.30 to dusk on weekdays and from 11.30 on Sundays. Near the entrance, in dry dock, rests Nelson's flagship, H.M.S. *Victory*. Launched at Chatham in the 1760's, she was already some forty years old when selected by Nelson as his flagship. After Trafalgar she became a permanent guardship in Portsmouth harbour, until in 1922 she was too old even to float and was transferred to her last resting-place. She has been carefully restored to her exact condition at the time of Trafalgar. In the raids of 1940-1, a bomb fell between the ship and the dock side, blowing a hole in her bottom. Many of the old brick buildings of the dockyard date from the 18th cent., notably the domed Navigation School, which was severely damaged in a raid.

The *Cathedral*, founded c. 1180 by Austin canons and dedicated to the newly canonized martyr, St Thomas of Canterbury, has the original chancel and transepts. In the former is the monument to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, assassinated by Felton in 1628. The church has been much enlarged by the erection of a new nave, not yet complete. The former W. tower is now central, while new N. and S. transepts have been added to it. The 'Navy Aisle' on S. side contains relics of many famous ships, notably the *Mary Rose*, of which there is a model. The *Garrison Church* has chancel

and nave, which were originally parts of the Hospital of God's House, founded by Bp Peter de Roche and dedicated to St Nicholas (1214). This was burnt out in the severe raid which destroyed much of the city in January 1941. The fine central *Town Hall* was opened (1891) by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII): it cost over £100,000. It was also burnt. *St Mary's Church*, Portsea, was built largely at the expense of the Rt Hon. W. H. Smith, First Lord of the Admiralty, the original of Sir Joseph Porter, in *Pinafore*.

He who wants to see something of old Portsmouth must find his way into the back streets, especially at the back of Broad Street and the Hard. Nelson's Portsmouth is reached by the old Sally Port or by St Thomas's Street. There are 16th- and 17th-cent. houses still surviving in narrow, twisting, and neglected lanes, but much of the old town was destroyed in the great raid of January 1941 and in subsequent attacks.

The road N. brings us to Cosham on the main E.-W. road, and we turn off for a short excursion to **Portchester**, reached by the first turn l. Here on the N. shore of Portsmouth Harbour was a British fort with a curving earthwork cutting off the neck of land as at Hengistbury. The Romans built a fort, one of nine or ten round our SE. coasts in the 3rd and 4th cent., to defend themselves against the raiding Saxons, to whom it finally fell in 514. It is now the most perfect Roman building in England. The walled area is c. 200 yds square, comprising 9 acres. In the NW. corner are the well-preserved remains of a Norman square keep and inner bailey built inside the Roman enclosure as at Pevensey. The British bank served to enclose a third bailey. Would you see Roman walling, examine the N. and W. sides, where the Roman work was utilized by the medieval builders. It is of flint concrete 10 ft thick, bonded with courses of flint and red tile, and from it project hollow semicircular bastions. Coins found are of the 4th cent. In the SW. corner is the Norman church,

founded 1133 by Henry I for Austin canons. Generally speaking it is original Norman, with a fine W. front. The conventual buildings were on the S. side and a portion is incorporated with the Roman wall. Inside the church note the carved font. Several thousands of war prisoners were packed into the Castle area during the Napoleonic campaigns. The remains are now well cared for by the Ministry of Works. *The Mount (II)*, near the high-standing Nelson monument, affords good accommodation.

We must return to **Cosham** and turn l. along the Petersfield road over the E. end of Portsdown. About 3 m. from Cosham is **Waterlooville**, with a church built in 1836, and an increasing population of private residents. The road runs through the ancient **Forest of Bere**, the best preserved part of which is to our r. (E.). **Horndean** is at a sharp turn in the road, and then we turn r. through the trees of Havant Thicket and make a short excursion l. to **Rowland's Castle**, just on the Sussex border. The name goes back to times when our kings were more French than English, and came across the Channel then; the hero Roland slew the Saracen giant Angoulaffre. There are some remains of a true Norman mount, cut through N.-S. by the railway. The earthworks consist of a flat-topped mound 40 yds across, and of a bank round the bailey. It was at an inn here in 1748 that Sussex smugglers trapped a customs officer and his companion, whipping one along the road till he fell dead and, after a few days' detention, flinging the other into a well. A few months later one villain turned King's evidence, and his fellow murderer was hanged on a gibbet at Rake. Full details were published in a book at Portsmouth, of which a stray copy can be picked up now and then. The Romans had brickworks in the neighbourhood, predecessors of the modern industry. Two m. to the N. in **Idsworth Park** stands the exceedingly charming little Norman St Hubert's Chapel (key at cottage by level crossing). It was carefully restored in

1913–14 and is noteworthy for its 13th-cent. wall paintings. These depict the legend of St Hubert and his healing of the man with hydrophobia when hunting: below this is Herod's feast with Salome dancing and the execution of St John the Baptist. On the splays of the E. window are St Peter robed as a Pope on the N. and St Paul on the S. There is a Jacobean pulpit and 18th-cent. box pews. The return to Havant can be made through Rowland's Castle.

## Route 16. – Round W. from Petersfield, among the Downs

PETERSFIELD – BRAMDEAN – HINTON AMPNER –  
DROXFORD – HAMBLEDON – CLANFIELD – CHALTON –  
EAST MEON – BURITON – PETERSFIELD

**Petersfield** (the field of St Peter, to whom the church is dedicated) nowadays is just a roadside place (*Red Lion II*), but, though it does not appear in Domesday, it was as early as 1108 that William, Earl of Gloucester, lord of the manor, granted to the guild merchant the rights and liberties enjoyed by citizens of Winchester. Henry III granted its market. Till 1885 it returned one M.P., having had its representation renewed in 1552 after an interval of over 240 years. The father of Edward Gibbon, the historian, was M.P. for Petersfield. Once it was the centre of the iron trade of the district, when there were many iron-smelting works, and it had a small share in the wool manufacture and trade. It was of importance in coaching days as a stage on the old London-Portsmouth road. The large church (St Peter), restored in 1874 – the N. porch in Norman style – preserves some good original Norman work, especially the diaper work over the chancel arch, which was formerly the E. arch of a central tower. The leaden equestrian statue of William III was given to the town by Wm Joliffe, its M.P. You may find some picturesque old houses in The Spain and Market Square. By the W. end of the church stroll down Sheep Street, where there are old timbered cottages (I.), and so into The Spain, a quiet square with a green and trees, where no two houses are alike. It is thought to have derived its name from the wool trade with that country. In the farther corner is a two-gabled white house on which is a medallion inscribed: ‘John Good-yeer, royalist and botanist (1592–1664), lived here.’ The charm

of Petersfield is its position in a romantic confusion of Down country. **Butser Hill** (890 ft) is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. SW., and on the W. the town is shut in by a semicircle of hills, the N. point of the bay being Wheatham Hill (c. 810 ft). Along the side of a deep combe, c. 2 m. out, our road W. (for Winchester) climbs to over 500 ft with a fairly stiff gradient; drive carefully round the curves. By the time we reach the *George Inn* ('Westmeon Hut') at the crossing of the Alton-Bishops' Waltham road, we are in a high valley (average c. 300 ft). It is a pleasant road, with downs on either side, at the side of which among the gravel have been found prehistoric flint implements. On the N. side opposite Brookwood Park is a collection of grey-wether sandstones, left there by erosion of the soil, like those on Marlborough Downs. Just before reaching **Bramdean**, NE. of Woodcote House (l.), some remains of a Roman villa were found in 1823; it had exceptionally good mosaic pavements which were unfortunately destroyed. All the coins were of comparatively late date. The name means valley where broom grew. It was on the downland, N. of the road between Bramdean and Cheriton, that the last battle of the Civil War was fought on Hampshire soil in March 1644 between the forces of Sir Wm Waller and Lord Hopton. It is known as the Battle of Cheriton. Several thousands of men on both sides were engaged, and between 10 a.m. and darkness there was great slaughter. It was a decisive victory for Waller, the Royalist troops retreating to Basing and Winchester.

Less than 1 m. farther is **Hinton Ampner** (the almoner's tun on high ground). Turn up the road l. for the church, worth seeing for two Saxon pilaster strips, and a doorway (now leading into vestry), a blocked low-side window, and a double piscina. In the valley behind (S. of) the village are burial mounds, one of which the Rector and the author excavated some years ago. It contained a small burial cist, probably of the Early Iron Age. Two others are in the

grounds of Hinton House, close (S.) to the road. Back on this road at the next cross-roads turn l. for **Kilmeston**, where the church has been drastically restored. We climb over high ground, over the shoulder of Beacon Hill (660 ft), then down a long spur to the crossing of the Alton-Waltham road. Keep straight on for **Droxford** (ford at a dry place) on the river Meon, Izaak Walton's 'silent silver stream'. Some years ago I found this a very pleasant village to stay in. A 17th-cent. rector, Dr Hawkins, married Izaak's daughter, and her father spent much of his last years here, and no doubt caught many 'brace of trouts' in the Meon. The church has good Norman N. and S. doorways, and Norman chancel arch and arcades rising to E.E. arches. Note the three piscina niches, image niche in S. chapel, and the effigy of John Droxford's mother. The place was one of the several 'fords' settled by the West Saxons, e.g. Alresford and Twyford; early this century a Jutish cemetery was opened here when a railway cutting was made.

Returning a little N., take the turning r., and fork r. and r. again for **Hambledon** (*New Inn, III*), which lies c. 2 m. N. of the remains of the ancient Forest of Bere, and is a very attractive village prettily set in a valley. The first thing we think of is, of course, the beginnings of cricket. The Hambledon Club first regularized the rules of the game in 1774, and the M.C.C. is its offspring. On the famous cricket ground called Broadhalfpenny Down a fixture in 1778 was Hambledon v. All England, for 1000 guineas: it was long a favourite ground for Hants, Sussex, and Surrey. Twenty-nine times in ten years Hambledon beat the English eleven. For such lore we refer to *Cricketers' Guide and Recollections*, by Nyren, cricketer and caterer for visitors at the *George Inn* and the *Bat and Ball*. The latter inn is at cross-roads c. 3 m. E. of Hambledon. Opposite is the cricket field and a big granite monument, a monolith on a base carved with two weird-shaped bats like curved clubs and a two-stump wicket. 'This

stone marks the site of the ground of the Hambledon Cricket Club, c. 1750–87.' It is a fine open ground with view of wooded hills, and now the sports ground of Wadham Bros., by permission of Winchester College. But the Hambledon Hunt also was famous, Laud of Park House (NE.) keeping the hounds, and hunting deer and foxes in the Forest of Bere. There were junketings at Hambledon Hunt suppers and balls, and race meetings were held.

Standing up on the N. slope is Hambledon church (SS. Peter and Paul), architecturally very interesting, because within the present building, of Norman and E.E. dates, the plan of the original Saxon chapel can be made out. The Saxon walls were pierced for the Norman arches – two W. bays – of the nave. A description of the building is hung up for the use of visitors. The main points are: the first stone church was probably of the 9th cent.; after the Conquest this church was enlarged with two aisles; in early 13th cent. it was extended eastwards, the nave increased in length by three bays, and a large chancel was built. Belonging to the 15th cent. are the western tower, the 'vestry' at W. end of S. aisle, and the S. porch, which originally had a chamber above it. The late P. M. Johnston writes: 'The whole of this church merits close study.'

We are now for **Clanfield**, with a 500 ft down on our r. Clanfield (clean field) lies in a valley with downs all round it except on the S. After the battle of Worcester a number of Hampshire Royalists had their estates here forfeited under Acts of 1651–2 and sold for the use of the navy and other purposes; the manor of Clanfield was sold under these Acts. The church, rebuilt 1875, retains from the old one the W. window, font, and two medieval bells. Two m. E. of Clanfield is **Chalton**, with a church chiefly 13th cent, and a fine old inn, the *Red Lion*, which is thatched and half-timbered and may be 15th cent. There has been a windmill on the down above since 1289.



You can return to Petersfield by the road through the downs with the 800 ft War Down on the r.; or back through Clanfield, turning r. by the church, make a last run over the high ground of Hyden Hill, with Wether Down l., to East Meon. We go the latter way because in R. 11 this was the only place in the Meon valley we failed to visit. As we are reaching it we run along beside the top waters of the Meon river. **East Meon** is remote and unspoilt, set in lovely scenery; downs all round with the exception of the NW. valley by which the water flows: Butser, Tegdown, Hyden, and Wether Down. It has a fine church, a 15th-cent. Court House, and 'cottages that for age and oddity hold their own with any in the land' (D. H. M. Read). This is certainly a first-rate centre for varied walks: I know of no hostelry, but it could be visited from Petersfield. Possibly it was Bishop Walkelin who built the beautiful Norman church (rest. 1870), apart from the ornate central tower, which is perhaps earlier, and the E.E. chancel and S. aisle. It contains one of the four Hants square fonts of black Tournai marble, with carvings on two sides of the Creation (N.) and Fall of Adam and Eve (E.); on the other sides, arcading and ornamental frieze, and on top birds and scrolls. In a W. window is a helpful architectural plan. The pulpit, originally in Holy Trinity, Minories, London (1706), was transferred here in 1906. The Bishop held his court in the Court House, across the road; it is a beautiful old building retaining early 15th-cent. work, e.g. some windows. Do you regret this detour?

It is 3 m. back E. on to the Petersfield road, and two more to Petersfield. At the bottom of the descent towards Petersfield, we must look in at the very pretty village of **Buriton** (pron. Berrytun, the tun of the hill), with green and pond, on one side of which is the church, the ancient rectory on the other. In the manor house here the historian Gibbon spent his youthful years. The church has an 18th-cent. tower, rebuilt after a fire, and is of much interest. In the

Trans. Norman arcade of four bays the capitals have moulded abaci, one with water-lily moulding. In chancel note three sedilia on different levels, double piscina with shelf above, and low-side window which has on its E. splay remains of a 13th-cent. painting of B.V.M. The square Norman font of Purbeck is supported on four original un-restored columns. At W. end of S. arch is a mural monument to Leonard Bilson of Mapledurham, 1694. S. of the church is the old Manor House, flat-fronted and facing a courtyard and built of local white stone with red-brick coigns, etc. The Rectory is still older, containing some 13th-cent. work. In its grounds is a cedar tree some five centuries old.

If you are in a venturesome mood, there is a fine drive by narrow roads from E. Meon over the high chalk to Hambledon. From the church cross the infant Meon and turn r. (not l. for Clanfield) over **Teglease Down**, where there is a very fine view over the Solent. Keep on SW., and at a triangle of roads turn l., straight over the Droxford-Hambledon road, and turn l. for Hambledon.

As to the walk suggested above, why not walk the semi-circle of the hills from Butser, by the Camp, over Tegdown and Hyden Hill to Old Winchester Hill, 9 or 10 m. on fine high ground? The car could leave you on the Portsmouth road for Butser, and pick you up at West Meon for return to Petersfield; a tip-top jaunt for present enjoyment and for future memory. **Butser Hill** (890 ft) which rises 400 ft above the Portsmouth road, and is the highest point hereabouts, was in pre-Roman times a peninsular fort of some 100 acres. There are groups of burial mounds. From the W. the neck is cut across by three lines of entrenchment, all overgrown with gorse.

## Route 17. – A Walk in E. Hants

### HINDHEAD – GRAYSHOTT – WAGGONERS' WELLS – BRAMSHOTT – LIPHOOK

While at Petersfield make a point of running up to Hindhead, not in our territory, but a good starting point for an exceptional walk mostly in Hants. We will get back on to the Portsmouth road W. by the Headley road and at **Grayshott** (strip of wood) we are in Hants. At the *Fox and Pelican Inn* (P.R.H.A. III) notice the sign, replica of one now kept inside, painted by Walter Crane. The quaint name derives from Bp Fox of Winchester, whose crest was a Pelican: hence at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, founded by Fox, a column in the quad, surmounted by a pelican. Opposite the inn is one of the most beautiful memorials of the First World War. Take the l. of two roads, that running due S., called Crossways road, leading to the Portsmouth road. Where this turns sharply E., just underneath the red-brick buildings of St Edmund's School and opposite a gate, is a path r., which leads down by Kingswood Firs and curves SW. by Stony Bottom to the top of the three **Waggoners' Wells** or Ponds. The name is a popular version of Wakener's. A shallow water-splash and clapper bridge takes the road over a clear pretty stream, a feeder of the Wey. The three very beautiful small lakes are a rarity in sand country. Frensham Ponds are others, but differing in size and openness from these, which are delightfully secluded in a glen – buried in forest, overhung by pines and beeches, and in summer time spread with lilies. The lakes are on three levels: they are not natural, but made by a former lord of Bramshott, perhaps by name Wakener. Before walking down on the r. of the stream, note that there is a refreshment place close at hand, and that

of the near-by stones one records that the 'Wells' are in the custody of the National Trust; the other commemorates Sir Robert Hunter, K.C.B., 1919, because of his work for open spaces in general, and for Waggoners' Wells in particular. At the bottom pond is a Wishing Well – and more refreshment. Here at the N. end of the crossing a path leads NW. At the second road turn r. and follow it through Gentle's Copse on to **Ludshott Common**, where there are grand views W. and S. So NE. to the Grayshott road at the angle whence we started. Alternatively, at the bottom pond turn l. across Bramshott Chase to **Bramshott church**, prettily perched up on a mound, and trim in a neat churchyard. The E.E. chancel has a triplet of deep-splayed windows, and a squint on both sides. There is a central tower with spire, and the two transepts have Perp. windows. Note the impressive war cemetery, the stones marking the graves of Canadian soldiers. Bramshott means 'Bramble Grove'. Continue to **Liphook** (corner by the steep slope) where the hub is the cheerful-looking *Anchor Hotel (II)*, with dentil eaves, under which is egg-and-tongue moulding. The garden at the back looks away over well-treed country to the chalk downs. In front is an old chestnut tree, with the bottom of the trunk built up with stones against damage. If you are bound for Selborne this way, by Greatham, you will see Weaver Down, bare except for a clump or two of trees, standing up l. A little farther on is the Royal Engineers' camp of **Longmoor**. Notoriously, as Dogberry remarked, 'comparisons are odorous,' but I have a feeling that this eastern end of Hants, from the Meon valley to the Portsmouth road, is for variety of charm surpassed by no other region, the New Forest included.

### Route 18. – Round SW. from Farnham: Selborne

FARNHAM – BENTLEY – FROYLE – BINSTED – HOLY  
BOURNE – CHAWTON – ROPLEY – CHERITON – EAST  
TISTED – SELBORNE – GREATHAM – WOOLMER POND –  
SLEAFORD – ALICE HOLT – FARNHAM

**Farnham** (*Bush II*) is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. inside Surrey, but I must poach as this is the most convenient take-off for the Hants region described. We start W. on the Alton and Winchester road and are soon at **Bentley**, spread out along the N. side of the road. The church is c. 500 yds up r. (N.), approached by a sombre ascent of yew trees. You see late Norman work blending into E.E.; the nave was rebuilt in 1890. Note: 12th-cent. arcade N. of chancel, 13th-cent. arcade S. of chancel, old glass in a clerestory window in chancel (15th cent.), squint to S. chapel, Norman Purbeck font, and Jacobean altar-rails. In medieval days part of the manor of Bentley was held by the service of providing an archer, armed and furnished, to serve the king for forty days in England. Two m. on is **Upper Froyle**, which lies N. of the road; turn r. at the *Hen and Chickens*. The church is on the edge of the Park and has a 14th-cent. chancel with a fine stained glass E. window containing its original glass. This is heraldic and shows the arms of Edward I and Margaret of France, Edward II when Prince of Wales, Edward the Confessor, etc. The nave was rebuilt in Georgian times, also the tower. The church is dedicated to the Assumption of the B. V. Mary.

Rejoin the main road and take the next road (l.) for **Binsted**, not to be confused with Binstead in the I.W., where the stone came from. This Binsted has a 12th-cent. church (Holy Cross) with a N. chapel added in the 14th cent. in memory of Richard de Westcote, whose effigy lies within. The river

Wey is with us (l.) all the road to Alton, just before which is **Holybourne**. The 'holy stream' rises near the church (Holy Rood), which shows a Norman nave and tower and 13th-cent. chancel, N. of chancel a low-side window of 13th cent. and a squint. The church is reached by taking a turning (r.) in the village.

For **Alton** see R. 4. At a sharp bend in the road is **Chawton** (tun where calves were reared). At the corner where the E. Tisted road goes l. is a square red-brick house (open Tues., Thurs., and Sat., 11–4.30; 1s.), which was one of Jane Austen's Hampshire homes, where she revised *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, and wrote *Emma* and *Persuasion*. Associated with her, too, is the fine Elizabethan Chawton House, with 17th-cent. addition, a little way down the Tisted road (l.): her second brother succeeded to the property on the death of Mr Knight, a connexion of hers. From Chawton she was driven to Winchester to die. The church, in the park, was rebuilt, after a fire in 1871, to designs of Sir Arthur Blomfield. From the old church survives an effigy of Sir Richard Knight (1679), and there is a fine wooden screen. The Saxon Oda of Winchester held Chawton, and seems to have played into the hands of the Conqueror, as in Domesday he is possessed of five manors which before had other owners. Out of Chawton is a delightful stretch of road, well-treed and rising to over 880 ft. On the descent at North Street look out for a small road l. leading to **Ropley**, a little detour worth making. Here are the kennels of the Hampshire Hunt, and a church (St Peter) with Norman door, 13th cent. S. chapel, and later features. About 1840 a fine gold collar, which once adorned the neck of a British chief, was ploughed up here, weighing nearly 6 oz.; it was formerly preserved at Ropley. A similar one was found at Romsey: these ornaments belong to the late Bronze Age, c. 1000–700 B.C. Ropley Dean, Bramdean, and Derdean denote Wessex settlements at the limits of the ancient mid-

Hants forest: the name means the clearing of Hroppa. Much Ropley land was held in medieval times by the Priory of Newark. Here, too, was one of the earliest (c. 1710) enclosures of common land: the long parallel fields at the E. end of the parish denote the situation of these lands, while at the W. end the old tenements, lanes, and gardens show where the ancient village existed – an interesting little study for the curious. The odour of smuggled spirits and tobacco still remains at Ropley.

Back on to the main road by **Bishop's Sutton** with its Norman church, and **New Alresford** (R. 4), where the turning l. (S.) leads past Tichborne Park (r.). The next village is **Cheriton**, an attractive little place on the stream coming down from Bramdean. The church stands on a mound which may be of Celtic origin; cf. Godshill, Isle of Wight, and many another, according to A. H. Allcroft. The name, tun with a church, seems to lead that way. NE. of the village, at Lambley Lane, mounds mark the burial of those who fell in the battle of March 29, 1644 (see R. 16).

On the Petersfield–Winchester road turn l. past Hinton Ampner and Bramdean (R. 16). At the cross-roads by the *George* turn l. by Filmer and alongside the railway to **East Tisted**, all high ground of c. 500 ft. The church has the tomb of Richard and Elizabeth Norton (1530) and an effigy of Sir John Norton (1686), a prominent supporter of the Parliamentary side. In the *Calendar of the Committee for Compounding* it is recorded that 'Sir Richard and John Norton, on their father's death compound for his and their own delinquency.'

Three m. E. we come into **Selborne**, of Gilbert White memory. White's *Natural History of Selborne* is a classic of local lore, to be read and pondered by all who love the English countryside, the good earth, and all the wonders it provides. The one way to appreciate fully this lovely place is to be steeped in the patient learning of his pages. A run E—H. & IW.

through is hardly enough if you are to wander 'all over the High Wood and Coney-croft hanger.' Arrange, perhaps, to stay at the *Queen's (II)*. Selborne, sallow stream, was the original name of the Oakhanger stream, which rising here flows NE. into the Wey. The village may be regarded as in the middle of the true western end of the great Weald of Surrey, Sussex, and Kent, which it would overlook but for the interposed Hindhead massif 6 or 7 m. to the E. Woolmer Forest, the first symptom of the Weald, lies about midway between. White lived at The Wakes and is buried in the churchyard of St Mary's, where there is a big and ancient yew tree mentioned by him. In the yard N. of the chancel, near the NE. corner of the vestry, is a headstone with his initials and date marking the grave. From this God's acre all round are charming views of woods and valleys and grass fields sloping upward. The church, on the site of an original Saxon one, is by the stream at the point where it turns NE. At the S. is the 13th-cent. entrance; the font is perhaps 12th cent.; on the floor in the centre of the chancel is a stone to Gilbert White, grandfather of the naturalist. The latter died 1793, and there are tablets to him and his brother Benjamin, the bookseller, on the S. wall of the chancel. As naturalist writers we naturally bracket White of Selborne and Gilpin of Boldre. Perhaps the finest memorial to the naturalist is the coloured three-light trefoil-headed window placed at the E. end of the S. aisle in 1920 by the Gilbert White Fellowship to mark the bicentenary of his birth. It represents St Francis of Assisi preaching to the birds, all those mentioned in White's writings, not much short of a hundred species, and all depicted in great detail. Inset in the picture are the church, the Wakes, the yew tree, and the White arms. It is a beautiful and distinguished composition. A roundel of 17th-cent. glass, bearing the White arms, was presented to the church by Lord Stamford in 1946. The green by the church, crossed by cobbled paths, is called the 'Plestor', i.e. playing place, a



fuller form of which is Plaistow in Sussex; at its top is a young oak, and at the bottom an old sycamore. Westward rises the wooded hill called the 'Hanger', which you will climb for fine views. By the *Selborne Arms* is the footpath called the 'Punfle'. The top can be reached by the zigzag path cut by G. W., or by the Bostal, a more direct alternative bearing r.

The Wakes, a long house r. on the road and nearly opposite the *Queen's*, is, of course, private. From the lovely garden behind one can see the old house, built of local 'blue-stone' and brick, at the S. end, and the addition made by G. W. at the N. end. He left memorials of himself in the haha, or sunk wall, facing the Hanger, a sundial, and an extension of a brick wall (N. side) with a square stone inscribed G. W., 1761. On the opposite side of the street, in front of the old butcher's shop, is a row of lime-trees planted by him. The valley down which the stream flows is known locally both as the Lith, rhyming with pith, or the Lythe, rhyming with blithe; in either case it means 'slope', cf. Lythe Hill on the eastern descent from Haslemere to the Weald. About 1 m. NE. along the stream was the Priory of Austin canons; the only extant remains are the fishponds in the garden of Coneycroft in Gracious Street, and the grange farm. Grave stones from it, one of a Knight Templar, are in the N. transept of the church.

SW. from Selborne along the E. Tisted road turn l. towards Hawkley, and in  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on the r. see a remarkable old house at **Goleigh Farm** (marsh-marigold clearing), with unequal wings, steep roof and gables, and narrow-spaced timber uprights, which seem to be of 15th-cent. date. Drive carefully hereabouts – lanes deep, narrow and steep, and tunnelled through trees. Through Hawkley turn l. at **Liss**, now a popular residential resort, and at the old church (St Peter) see the following: beautiful S. doorway, 13th cent. with timber 15th-cent. porch; Elizabethan window, at W.

end of S. aisle; S. arcade, c. 1400; and tower with 13th-cent. work. So round to Greatham.

Direct from Selborne in c. 3 m. SE. we reach **Greatham** (pron. Grettum=homestead on grit or gravel), where there are ruins of the old church. Pause here, for in the chancel, still roofed, you may see through the window (if key not available) a fine alabaster tomb with effigy of 'A Vertuous Ladie', Dame Margery Caryll, of Harting (1632). Turn l. (N.) for Farnham. The road runs through **Woolmer Forest**, a sandy place where pines now flourish. Woolmer Pond near the road (r.) is a desiccated remnant of its former self. It has, however, considerable antiquarian interest, for here, when the pond was dry, were found in 1741 hundreds of Roman copper coins, some of the 2nd cent., Marcus Aurelius and his wife Faustina. On the other side of the road (W.) Blackmoor Park and House have produced more Roman finds. That in the Park was very remarkable, a hoard of 29,802 coins was found in two earthenware vases, October 30, 1873. It consisted of masses of poor billon (=silver with much alloy) coins of A.D. 254-73, a smaller quantity dating 273-96, and a good many of the emperors Carausius (287-93) and Allectus (293-6). It is probable that Woolmer was the battlefield where Asclepius fought the usurper Allectus, and that the coins were part of the pay-chest of Allectus, hidden when he beat a hasty retreat eastward. When Lord Selborne was rebuilding Blackmoor House (c. 1867), Roman tiles, pottery, a coin of Lucius Verus (mid 2nd cent.), and iron axe-heads, etc. were found. These suggest a Roman building, which may have served as temporary headquarters of Allectus.

Over White Hill we pass through **Bordon Camp**, and by **Broxhead Common** and **Sleaford** (muddy ford) over the Wey we reach **Alice Holt Forest** (Aelfsige's wood, Forest being an unnecessary addition: Alsiholt, then Ailsholt). With Woolmer it once supplied much timber for naval purposes; there

are still some fine old oaks and beeches. In 1703 these two neighbouring forests contained 38,919 oak-trees, but in 1784 and 1788 a fall of 1500 loads were taken for the navy. So great had been the encroachments on the old Hants forests that in the 17th cent. all that remained were these two, with the New Forest, Bere, and Parkhurst in Wight. And so back to Farnham.

## Route 19. – Round S. from Odiham

ODIHAM – GREYWELL – WESTON PATRICK – SHALDEN  
GREEN – LOWER FROYLE – ODIHAM

**ODIHAM** (*George II*) = wooded meadow: of the great wood Odiham Common is the remnant. You will take the broad and curving main street bordered by a pleasing variety of houses. It is an ancient market-town and interesting place, and you can imagine the bustle of coaching days. Moreover, it is a good centre for many quiet-country runs, of which this round is a fair sample. The old Basingstoke Canal comes close N. by Odiham Castle and the waterside village of **North Warnborough**, where few motorists, with eye on a narrow winding road, pause as they should. A few hundred yards E. of the bridge over the Whitewater the late Miss Dorothy Liddell recently excavated a complete little Roman house. But back to Odiham. The large church (by the side of which are charming old almshouses with brick chimneys rising as high again as the rooms) is in style E.E. to Perp., with 17th-cent. tower and oak galleries. The open space by it is 'The Bury', the centre of the old town, where are preserved stocks and whipping post. In the church see the round 13th-cent. font, with attachment for hinge of font-cover, and brasses of 15th and 16th cent. In the Civil War the little town was awkwardly placed between the Roundhead headquarters at Farnham and the Royalist Basing House. Hence skirmishes here and a Roundhead outrage when the Vicar was driven out of his church at pistol-point and his pregnant wife turned out of the vicarage into the snow; charitable neighbours pluckily took her in. The remains of the famous Castle, known as 'King John's Castle', are about 1 m. out NW. among pines: massive walls and buttresses of the 14th-cent.

octagonal central tower standing on a platform roughly rectangular. The defences made great use of water, the principal moat being 30–40 ft across. Outside this on the SW. side is a ditch, marsh, and the river Whitewater. The ditches were also used as fish-stews. When in King John's reign the Dauphin, Louis of France, came at the invitation of the Barons to take the Kingdom of England, he besieged (1216) Odiham Castle, which was held by three knights, three esquires, and seven men-at-arms for a week. The thirteen marched out with the honours of war. It was from the Castle that John set out (June 9) for Runnymede and the signing of the Great Charter (June 15). Henry III's daughter Eleanor, Lady of the Manor, a very extensive one, married Simon de Montfort, and when they stayed here lavish hospitality was dispensed. Under Edward III, David Bruce of Scotland was confined here after his defeat at Neville's Cross. The high life at the Castle in Eleanor's time is illustrated by the Household Roll for the year 1265, a valuable record found in an obscure French monastery where it had lain unnoticed for centuries, and now in the British Museum. The catering was on a prodigious scale: wine and beer flowed. Hundreds of salt herrings were consumed daily. The bread eaten was made of mystelton, a mixture of wheat and rye. On April 18, 5 quarters of barley and 4 of oats were brewed, on April 28, 188 gallons of beer were bought, and next day they brewed again 7 quarters of barley and 2 of oats. Bought beer cost  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  or  $\frac{3}{4}d.$  a gallon, but the figures should probably be multiplied by 40 to get modern values. The poor were not forgotten: on April 14 the Countess fed 800 paupers who, besides other items, consumed 3 quarters of bread and 1 tun of cider. She kept a large hunting establishment of men and dogs. The names of servants are nearly all Saxon: Hande and Jacke of the bakehouse, Jacke the keeper of the harriers, Hicke the tailor, Dobbe the shepherd, Dignon, Gobitherty, and Truebodi, letter-carriers. Saxons had fallen low in those

days. Two other Odiham sights: the huge chalk quarry, 1 m. round, with high perpendicular walls, and the panelled room of the comfortable *George Hotel*. The ancient chalk pit is witness to the agricultural system of marling land, which was practised probably by the Belgae in Britain before Pliny's time (A.D. 23–79). In medieval days Odiham was known for the ironwork of its smiths, and later it shared with Whitchurch, Andover, and other towns in the manufacture of silk.

Leaving Odiham go out W. for **Greywell**, where the church is on your l. It is to be seen for its late Norman chancel arch, N. doorway, and exceptional rood-screen with rood-loft and stairs. Here the disused Basingstoke Canal passes through a tunnel. The stream, the 'well' in Greywell, is the beginning of the Whitewater which, through the Blackwater and Loddon, finally flows into the Thames near Wargrave. **Upton Grey**, SW., is as the name implies on higher ground (see R. 5). So straight over the cross-roads up to **Weston Patrick** and **Weston Corbett**. Patrick is derived from Patric de Cadurcis (i.e. of Cahors, in Languedoc), to whom Henry III gave permission to enclose and fence the part of Odiham Forest at Weston, an example of the process by which for centuries forest land was enclosed to the gain of the Crown and people like Patric. The church, rebuilt by the architect T. H. Wyatt, retains a round-headed doorway on the N. side, dating c. 1200. Continuing S. take the first lane l. over Weston Common to **Shalden Green** (c. 650 ft) and the *Golden Pot Inn* at the crossing of the Alton–Odiham road; past which keep straight on over high ground (c. 730 ft), and round SE. to **Lower Froyle** (Upper Froyle, R. 18, has an interesting church). Now N., crossing the Harroway, for **Crondall** (R. 5). Here take the by-road l. (W.) for Itchel Manor, Hillside, and Odiham. In this round there is much typical, quiet, well-wooded country, but care is needed driving in lanes which are narrow, winding, deep, and tree-covered.

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

**Routes to the Isle of Wight.** Steamers of British Railways run between Portsmouth and Ryde, and Lymington and Yarmouth. The Isle of Wight Steam Packet Co. runs between Southampton and Cowes. Cars are taken on board the two last by previous notification; special facilities are also provided for them by the B.R. Ferry from Portsmouth to Fishbourne near Ryde.

**THE ISLE OF WIGHT.** Geology and geography make this one of the finest all-the-year-round resorts in Great Britain. The main geological feature of the Island is its spine of chalk downs E.-W., with extension to the S. from Shanklin to St Catherine's Point. The island is lozenge-shaped with its four angles roughly at the four cardinal points, the longer axis E.-W. measuring c. 22 m. and the shorter N.-S. c. 13 m. The river Medina rising in the S. and flowing out by its long estuary between W. and E. Cowes, practically divides the island into two halves, East Medina and West Medina. Geologically, the Wealden Beds are seen on E. and S. sides, and are represented in Sandown Bay and along the SW. coast from Atherfield Point to Compton Bay. Bones of the iguanodon have been found in them. The upper member of the Beds, the Lower Greensand, also appears on the coast. But the main portion of the S. half of the island shows the Lower Greensand, e.g. at Compton Bay, Atherfield, Shanklin, and Sandown Bay, and at Godshell, W. of Shanklin. On the Lower Greensand rests the Gault, a blue-grey clay seen at Compton Bay and Red Cliff in Sandown Bay: it is here called 'Blue Slipper' because, as at Folkestone, it produces landslips. The Upper Greensand is exposed, e.g. at the Landslip between Ventnor and Shanklin. The Chalk, as was said above, is prominent along the length of the centre and at Culver Cliff (E. of Sandown), the Needles, Scratchell's Bay, Ventnor, and St Catherine's Downs. Eocene and later strata

occupy the northern part of the island: Alum Bay gives a conspectus of them, nearly vertical in the cliffs, and also of London Clay, seen again at Whitecliff Bay. More recent deposits are represented in various parts of the island. There has been much upheaval of strata, which are elevated in the middle of the island and sunk under the Solent, the central chalk being cut through by the Medina, just as the South Downs of Sussex are cut by the Ouse, Adur, and Arun. The Solent was originally the mouth of a big river which separated Wight from Hampshire in a very distant past. (For geology the author is indebted to George Clinch's *Little Guide*.) The Upper Greensand between Blackgang and Bonchurch supplies building stone, and the limestone of Bembridge has been extensively quarried for buildings, e.g. Winchester Cathedral, on the mainland. Alum, once a government monopoly, has been obtained from Parkhurst Forest and Alum Bay. From what has been said about the distribution of the chalk you may infer the scenery encountered. Undoubtedly the best way to get an idea of the great variety of the coastal scenery is to make a steamboat trip round the island from Ryde. The chines, e.g. of Shanklin and Luccombe, are a specially attractive feature, as also are the Landslip and Undercliff. For the beauty of the interior, visit the churches of Godshill, Bonchurch, Shorwell, and Brading, and for seascapes stand on the cliff of the Needles or on St Catherine's Downs. Away from the usual haunts of tourists in the northern parts, the country is quite rural and unspoilt. For invigorating air, walk the chalk down from Brading along Arreton Down, or from Carisbrooke over Brighstone and Mottistone Downs, or for an invalid climate sample Ventnor.

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**HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.** From the Old Stone Age onwards men have lived on Wight. Palaeolithic implements



have been found, e.g. at Seaview, neolithic axes at Bembridge, a hoard of bronze objects at Arreton Down, and remains of Iron Age villages on Brighstone Down. British gold coins, both uninscribed and inscribed, have been found at Chale, Sandown, and Ryde. For the Roman emperor Claudius his general Vespasian conquered the island, which they knew as Ictis or Vectis, about A.D. 43, and Roman villas have been excavated at Morton near Brading, Cowes (1879), Carisbrooke (1859), Newport, Gurnard Bay, and between Brighstone and Calbourne. There were traces of another on Arreton Down. Those at Brading and Newport are open for inspection. There was a Roman cemetery near Newport and probably a Roman village. These are but samples of the Roman occupation. In the Anglo-Saxon period Jutes from Jutland settled in 449 in Kent, the Isle of Wight, and the Meon valley in Hants. Barrows excavated on Arreton Down and on Shalcombe and Chessel Downs provided objects typical of Jutish culture. As said above (Meonstoke) in 661 Wulfhere gave the people of Wight to Ethelwold, king of the South Saxons, and the mass-priest Eoppa first brought baptism to the island; at least so says the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. The Jutes, like the Romans, seem to have occupied at first the northern half. The various Wolvertons may have been Wulfhere's tuns. After a period of regained independence and a series of raids by the Danes, the people voluntarily accepted the rule of Edward the Elder and remained part of England till the Conquest, when Wight was given to William Fitz-Osborne. Henry I granted it to Richard de Redvers, whose son and successor founded Quarr Abbey. From Edward I to 1485, Wight, as a Crown domain, was governed by Wardens. The French ravaged the place several times, and it was not till the reign of Elizabeth that the inhabitants enjoyed any security.

Carisbrooke Castle was built in Norman times: later defences were the blockhouses erected under Henry VIII,

e.g. at Cowes, Sandown, and Yarmouth. Under Edward VI and Elizabeth a system of alarm-beacons was arranged and a brass gun allotted to each parish; the Brading gun is still preserved at Nunwell and the gun-house remains by the parish church. Charles I was kept in captivity in Carisbrooke Castle, and Queen Victoria died at Osborne House. Some monastic establishments were founded in the island, mainly in the 12th cent. Of these the most prominent was Quarr Abbey, a Cistercian house, founded by Baldwin de Redvers, Lord of Wight, in 1131. The Priory of Carisbrooke, a cell or dependency of the Benedictine Abbey of Lyra in Normandy, was also founded by Baldwin c. 1156. The visitor will note several important manor-houses, e.g. Mottistone, Arreton, Northcourt, Yaverland, Sheat, and Appuldurcombe, which were either built or rebuilt from far older structures at the end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th cent. The comparative security which followed the destruction of the Spanish Armada induced the leading families to settle in their homes.

## Route 20. – Round the Isle of Wight

COWES – NEWPORT – WOOTTON – BINSTED – RYDE –  
BRADING – SANDOWN – SHANKLIN – GODSHILL – VENT-  
NOR – ST CATHERINE'S POINT – CHALE – SHORWELL –  
BRIGHSTONE – MOTTISTONE – FRESHWATER – YAR-  
MOUTH – SHALFLEET – COWES – OSBORNE – WHIP-  
PINGHAM

Arriving by boat at **West Cowes**, that is Cowes proper, we look round (*Gloster II*). The name was derived from the castle built here under Henry VIII, 'Cow' being an old name for a breast-work fortification: the original name was Shamlord. The Royal Yacht Club bought (1836) the useless castle, of which the semicircular platform alone remains. Here are the headquarters of the Royal Yacht Squadron; its important regatta is held in early August. The SW. road out goes to Shalfleet and Yarmouth, but from it take the first fork l. along the W. side of the Medina estuary, and after passing Parkhurst Forest and the Prison on the r. we are at **NEWPORT** (*Bugle II*), the central junction of railway lines and five or six roads, and the capital of the island, with a population of 20,000. Anciently called Medina, it was destroyed by the French in 1377. James I granted it a Corporation and Mayor. Sir Arthur Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington) was one of its M.P.s from 1807 to 1809, Lord Palmerston being the other. Cross Lane (NE.) recalls the former existence of the Priory of St Cross, founded c. 1120, which was purchased (1391) by William of Wykeham for Winchester College. The church of St Thomas was built in 1854 onwards on the site of an ancient church, the first stone being laid by the Prince Consort. In a vault was buried Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, who died at Carisbrooke Castle. Her effigy at E. end of N. aisle was presented by Queen Victoria. There is a monument (1582) to Sir Edward Hersey, Captain of the

Island, and a beautiful pulpit (1636). The Guildhall dates 1814-6. The Corporation, consisting of mayor, eleven aldermen, twelve chief burgesses, a recorder, and other functionaries, was once important, and its municipal insignia are of great interest. The town contains several old houses of interest, notably God's Providence House (1701), SE. of the parish church, now a restaurant; and Hazard's House (1684), in Lower High Street. A Roman Villa, c. 100 ft long, with corridor and bath wing, built c. 150 and lasting into the 4th cent., was excavated by Messrs. Stone and Sherwin (adm. 6d.). To reach this from High Street, take road running S. through St James Square, and along St James Street. At the County Library, turn l. into Medina Avenue, first r. into Mount Pleasant and second l. into Avondale road. Obviously Newport is an excellent centre for motorist, cyclist, and pedestrian.

Out NE. take the r. fork for Wootton Bridge, Quarr Hill, and Ryde. Wootton Bridge is at the head of Wootton Creek, one of the most charming creeks of the Solent. **Wootton** has attractions: a Norman church, old mill, bridge, and pretty cottages. From it a walk to **Ashey Downs** is rewarded by a fine view: Spithead, Portsmouth and the hills beyond. On a clear day you see the whole coastline from Southampton to Chichester. To the S. are the backbone Downs, the Channel, and on its verge Sandown and Shanklin. After Quarr Hill turn l. for a short excursion to Quarr Abbey and Binstead. **Quarr Abbey** (see Introduction on the Isle) was bought at the Dissolution by a Southampton man and almost entirely demolished, though certain buildings were utilized for farm purposes. The remains are picturesque. Its plan was established by excavation in 1891; rather exceptionally the church was S. of the cloister, instead of N. Mr P. G. Stone has described the disposition of the buildings in *Architectural Antiquities of the Isle of Wight*. The name denotes quarries. The modern Abbey is a striking building of brick (1908-12) and

looks well from Spithead. **Binstead** (there are others in both Hants and Sussex) means place where beans were grown. The famous Binstead limestone has been quarried for many centuries, and was used for Winchester Cathedral. The church has an ancient chancel, with herringbone work in the walls, and there are Norman carvings in the walls of the new building. In the churchyard is the grave of a smuggler, Thomas Swell, who was shot aboard his ship by a revenue officer (1785), with a carving of the ships.

As approached by boat, **Ryde** (*Yelf's II*) is a picturesque town on the slope of a hill, with trees almost down to sea level. The shallowness of the water necessitates the half-mile of pier along which you can walk or ride in train or tram. Along the front are the charming Esplanade Gardens. The first stone of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club-house was laid (1846) by the Prince Consort. **Seaview** is a popular bathing place to the E. *The Priory* with its grounds has been purchased as a permanent holiday resort for people of very moderate means by the Workers Travel Association.

Leaving the popular watering-place of Ryde, we pass through the suburb of Oakfield, and past the church turn r. for Brading and Sandown. At **Brading** St Mary's church has a five-bayed nave of the 12th cent. In the walls are some Roman bonding tiles, possibly taken from the near-by Roman villa, and in the churchyard are the pound and the old gun-house in which the parish brass gun used to be kept. The ancient Oglander family has monuments in its S. chapel, of especial interest being two full-length wooden effigies in plate armour, while on the N. of the chancel is the De Aula chapel, with 16th-cent. altar tombs. Note also the very beautiful effigy of the infant daughter of Lord and Lady Rolls. Brading was a harbour of some importance in the Middle Ages; its modern connexion with the sea is by the river Yar. The ancient Corporation was extinguished in 1886. In the old Town Hall, near the church, are preserved

the parish stocks and whipping post. The old bull-ring is in the centre of the village. To the S. of Morton, r. (W.) of the road to Sandown, is one of the famous, because well-cared-for, Roman villas of England: Chedworth (Glos.) is another. The so-called Brading Villa was discovered in 1879, and after excavation was preserved by people of vision. Sheds protect the mosaic pavements, as at Bignor in Sussex, but the lower parts of walls also are to be seen. (Closed on Sun. and during winter months; guide-book 1s. on the spot.) The mosaics, though elaborate, are not so artistic as those of Bignor. There was a large courtyard measuring 185 ft each way, and on the N., W., and S. sides of it were groups of rooms. On the W. side was the residential part, a hall and twelve rooms; on the floor of the hall is the pavement of Orpheus charming wild beasts (among them a monkey) with the music of his lyre. Chamber No. XII (40 ft by 15½ ft) also contains very interesting pavements; that in the western part (13 ft 6 in. by 13 ft 10 in.) had in the corners figures representing the four seasons, a motive common in Italy and seen also at Bignor. In the E. part of this room is a head of Medusa, also found at Bignor. Chamber XV had a hypocaust or heating cellar. There is a collection of 'finds' made on the site. Hence it is a short run into modern **Sandown** in its broad and beautiful bay, with adequate esplanade, and a pier 1000 ft long. Culver Cliff is away to the E., and Dun-nose Point SW. with Shanklin between. It is a delightful walk in either direction. (Hotels: *Ocean I*, *Royal Pier II*).

**Shanklin** (*Daish's II*; *Landguard Manor*, a Co-operative Holiday Assocn. Guest House) shows plainly two stages in its development: the old village has retained its thatched cottages and old-world gardens, and should not be missed. Modern Shanklin is built on shore level and at the top of a steep cliff, the two being connected by life and zigzag pathway. The new is commendable – good houses in large gardens. The church of St John Baptist (formerly the Chapel

of St Blaise) was much enlarged in 1852, but retains a piscina and windows of the 14th cent. Thomas Silkstead, last prior of Winchester, has left his name, with date 1512, on the front of a fine chest, now kept in the vestry. The well-known Shanklin Chine (adm. 6*d.*) at the S. end is a beautifully wooded natural gorge made by a small stream; it is 180 ft wide and 270 ft deep. Ferns and many kinds of plants make it a gem of a place for an idle hour. There is a chalybeate spring at the upper end.

From Shanklin try to make the 4 m. run W. to **Godshill**. You can finish the round by Whitwell and Ventnor. It is a very picturesque place, with thatched cottages near the church (All Saints'), one of the largest in Wight. If the name was not originally Gode's, or Godmann's hill, perhaps the explanation is that a pagan site, a round knoll, was consecrated to Christian worship; the change, if not the name, is not uncommon. The present church, of 14th-cent. date, has no chancel arch, a rood screen having formerly divided nave from chancel. The original oak S. door remains, above which (inside) are the Royal Arms of Queen Anne. Note also a consecration cross, painted on the S. wall, found in 1926, and on the N. side, a large picture, said to be by Rubens, of Daniel in the Lions' Den, from the collection of Sir Richard Worsley. In the S. transept, which has a good barrel roof, is an almost unique wall painting c. 1500 of the 'Budding Cross', showing Christ crucified on a tree. Here were also the stairs to the vanished rood loft. The N. transept was built in 1741 by Sir Robert Worsley to accommodate the monument to himself and his brother Henry. Adjoining it is a Jacobean altar table. There are a great many Worsley monuments in the church, the most notable being that in the N. chapel to James and Joanna his wife (1537). He was Captain of Wight and of Carisbrooke Castle, and added to these offices that of Keeper of the Lions at the Tower of London! His wife's parents, Sir John Leigh and Agnes his wife, are

commemorated by alabaster effigies under a fine canopy (c. 1520). He established a chantry, the incumbent of which, John Griffith, taught English grammar to children. This was re-endowed as a free Grammar School, the old Chantry House being part of the endowment. Note 17th-cent. altar rails and, outside church, sanctus bell-cote in S. transept gable.

The road from Shanklin along the sea face of the Shanklin and St Boniface Downs to Ventnor has some sharp turns and stiff gradients: short descent from Upper Bonchurch 1 in 8. You are rewarded by fine sea views. Half-way along (l.) is **Luccombe Chine**, a rocky glen picturesquely wooded and traversed by a small stream. The name probably means love or courting valley. At **Bonchurch** (? Bana's or Boniface's church), below the main road, a church was erected in the 11th cent., and much of this remains in the present building, e.g. porch door and some windows with semi-circular heads. The chancel (N.) has an E.E. lancet window. Since 1850, when a larger one was built, the church has been used only as a mortuary chapel. In the graveyard is buried John Sterling (d. 1844), friend of Thomas Carlyle. The church (adm. weekdays, 6d.) is to be seen for its position on a steep wooded slope above the landslip. This last was caused by the seaward dip of the blue-grey gault under the greensand and, like all the landslips of the Undercliff, is probably of great antiquity, though fresh falls occur from time to time. The devastation caused by one in 1810 is now beautified by vegetation of many kinds. In the centre of the village is a pond charmingly overhung by trees.

**Ventnor** (a late name first recorded in 1755) was formerly Holewey, hollow road. The place looks S., protected behind by the 790 ft of St Boniface Down, and is built on terraces rising to 300 ft. This sitting and its splendid air fully account for its fame as a health resort. The favourite walks are to the Bonchurch Landslip NE. and to the Undercliff SW. It was



off Ventnor that the training-ship *Eurydice* was lost with over 300 men and boys in March, 1878. (Hotels: *Royal II* and *Metropole II*; there is also *Steephill Castle*, a Guest House of the Friendship Holiday Assocn.). From Ventnor W. the road runs above the Undercliff and passes **St Lawrence** (2 m.) with its interesting little church dating from the 13th cent., and one of the smallest in the kingdom. It was formerly 30 ft long by 11 ft wide, and 6 ft high to the eaves. **St Catherine's Point** (c. 3 m. farther) and its lighthouse are at the S. extremity of Wight. Westward of the Point along the coast we lose the chalk until Freshwater Bay is reached. St Catherine's Hill behind rises to 780 ft. The lighthouse, 84 ft high and 134 ft above high water, is one of the most powerful lights in the world, equal, it is said, to 7,000,000 candles. Owing to a landslip which carried away the main road N. of the lighthouse, the road has been diverted through Niton (see R. 22), whence it climbs over the top of the cliff. To the r., at the summit, two old lighthouses may be seen about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. up the hill. One dates from the 14th cent. and is in good preservation; the other (18th cent.) is a ruin. The road descends to **Blackgang Chine**, through the Lower Greensand, the barest and wildest ravine on the Island. The absence of vegetation allows a view of its fine contours from the stepped path across its landward end. With Atherfield Point in view to the NW., we begin to turn inland (N.) to **Chale**, where the church (St Andrew) has a S. arcade of c. 1290, and a fine rugged tower of 15th cent. At the foot of the Down are remains of an ancient house called Chale, dating back to early Edward III; the N. end of the hall is marked by a transomed window, and on the W. side is a fine 15th-cent. barn. On Chale Down is Hoy's Pillar, 72 ft high, put up in 1814 to commemorate the visit of Alexander I, Emperor of All the Russias. Through Chale Green we proceed N. and W. to **Shorwell** (stream from the uplands, which well represents the case), where the finely sited church, mainly Perp., dates

back to the 13th cent. It possesses one of the most remarkable of many wall-paintings of St Christopher, with many incidents in his life as well as the familiar one. Note also the Jacobean pulpit canopy and font cover. There are monuments to the Leigh family. The small tower on the Downs is for the daughter of a former owner of Northcourt. Westward is **Brighstone** (or Brixton), where the church retains but little of its 12th-cent. original. Inside, note a niche for statue and traces of stairs to rood-loft; the old gun-house on the N. wall was pulled down a century ago. A short 2 m. farther is **Mottistone**. The manor of Mottistone is mentioned in Domesday, and the picturesque stone house close to the road was probably built c. 1550 and partly rebuilt before 1600: It was well restored in 1930 by Lord Mottistone, soldier, author, and statesman. On Mottistone Down close N. is a large rock or menhir probably in natural position, but anciently used as a meeting place. The name, derived from *moter* *stan*, stone of the speakers, seems clearly to denote that it was the stone from which a man pleaded his cause and the judge summed up. After turning r. and l. at Chessell we have on our l. Brook Down, on which are several ancient burial mounds. A little farther turn l. for Freshwater Gate and Bay, for scenery of chalk cliffs, and r. for **Freshwater** at the top of the Yare estuary. Freshwater church was one of several in the Island built and endowed by Wm Fitz-Osborne and given by him to the Norman Abbey of Lyra. Some of the 12th-cent. work still exists. Note figure of an armed knight in brass to a member of the Compton family (c. 1350); from the breast is a label inscribed: 'Pur mes petches merci prie' (Pray forgive my offences). To the SW. is **Farringford** (now a hotel), where Tennyson came to live in 1853, spending most of each year here. He died in 1892, and to his memory was erected on the top of High Down or Tennyson's Down, a large stone cross, a landmark for many miles. The Down is now in the care of the National

Trust. Lady Tennyson (d. 1896) is buried in Freshwater churchyard. A road SW. takes one to **Alum Bay** with its cliffs of many-coloured sand, and the Needles with their lighthouse, 109 ft high, on the seaward of three isolated chalk rocks; it is visible for 14 m. out at sea. On return take the first l. past **Totland Bay** (*Hotel, I*) and across the mouth of the Yar to **Yarmouth**, once a place of importance because of its closeness to the mainland, and a borough sending two M.P.s, from 1585 to 1832. Twice or thrice it was severely handled by the French. Yarmouth Castle was built by Henry VIII, in 1537, and put a stop to these repeated attacks. It is still in perfect condition. On the S. side of the chancel of the church (St James), in the Holmes chapel, is a marble statue to Adm. Sir Robert Holmes, Captain of the Wight 1667–92, who took New York from the Dutch in 1664. The Holmes house was turned into the *George Hotel (II)*, which has a fine central staircase.

From Yarmouth take the road E. to Shalfleet, where turn r. *via* Locksgreen to West Cowes. At **Shalfleet** (shallow stream, emptying into the Newtown River) is a church, parts of which date from the 11th cent. The massive tower seems to have been originally intended for defence. The Newtown river is growing in popularity with yachtsmen. **Newtown**, then known as Francheville, was once capital of the island. The ruined town hall has been repaired and restored, and now belongs to the National Trust. Cuttings through trees represent once busy streets. Hence drive back to Cowes.

**Osborne House** and Grounds are open from Easter Mon. until early in October, Mon., Wed., and Fri. 11–5. Guide on sale (adm. 1s.). Cowes is the best place from which to visit Osborne House and Whippingham church, both so closely associated with Queen Victoria. She erected Osborne House early in her reign and died there in 1901. From Cowes her body was taken to Portsmouth in her favourite paddle-yacht, *Alberta*, through an avenue of warships representing

all the principal navies of the world. The house is now used as a convalescent home for officers, but the public are admitted to the State Apartments containing the Jubilee presents (1887). A walk of  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. across the park leads to the Swiss Cottage, containing the original furniture, toys, etc., used by the royal children when spending a day in the gardens. It was made in Switzerland and erected in 1853. Adjoining it is the museum, containing various treasures collected by the royal children. Here is also the 'Albert Barracks', a brick fort constructed in 1860 by the Prince of Wales (afterwards Edward VII) and his brothers. Near by is the thatched toolshed still containing their gardening tools, also their toy carts and barrows. The Royal Naval Training College, installed in the riding-school and stables, was closed in 1921.

**Whippingham Church** (St Mildred) is about 1 m. S. of Osborne and was rebuilt by Queen Victoria to the design of the Prince Consort in 1861 in the Trans. Norman-E.E. style. It contains many memorials of great interest, e.g. those to Prince Henry of Battenberg (1896) and Princess Beatrice (1944) on N. side of chancel. The screen was the gift of Queen Victoria and her handwriting upon it records this fact. The Royal Pew is opposite and contains tablets in memory of the Prince Consort (1864) and of two of the Queen's children, Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (1884), and Princess Alice (1878). The reredos is a memorial to the Queen from her children, and the font is in memory of the Prince Consort.

## Route 21. – Walk round S. from Carisbrooke Station

CARISBROOKE – BRIGHSTONE DOWN – SHORWELL –  
GATCOMBE – CARISBROOKE

Carisbrooke Station is reached by rail from Cowes, Ryde, Sandown, or Ventnor *via* Newport. Go out of Carisbrooke a short way on the Freshwater road, and then take a lane l. by the *Blacksmith's Arms* which brings you round on to the Shorwell road at Bowcombe. Very shortly a path strikes off r., and takes you SW. straight for **Brighstone** (Brixton) **Down**, where were found remains of British villages. Follow the crescent of the Down round E. and fall into a lane leading to **Shorwell** (R. 20). A little N. of the inn a lane leads off r. (E.) and becomes a path with a high down l., and again a lane into the Gatcombe road at Ramsdown. Follow the road N. and NE. to **Gatcombe** (valley frequented by goats), on the river Medina. Of the original 13th-cent. church the chancel arch is the best survival. In chancel see a rare wooden effigy of a knight in armour. In the vestry is a Jacobean communion table inscribed, 'Prayse ye the Lord'.

The lane by the church leads to another going N. to **Carisbrooke Castle** (open May–Sept., 9–8, Sun. 2–6: Oct.–Feb., 9.30–4: Mar.–April, 9–6, closed on Sun.). The site on which the Castle stands would naturally invite fortification even in pre-Roman times, though this is not proven. Roman occupation also was uncertain until 1926, when a Roman fort was found under the Castle. This was probably a late fort belonging to the Saxon Shore system, forts intended to protect our SE. and S. shores from the Saxon menace. A piece of the Roman wall may be seen under the medieval one to the W. of the gatehouse. In the Norman period the keep was built, probably by William Fitz-Osborne, on a huge

artificial mound and other earthworks thrown up on a big scale. In c. 1100 Richard de Redvers built the curtain wall and the lower part of the walls of the stone keep; his son Baldwin finished the stone castle. In 1386 William de Montacute was made Lord of Wight, and he remodelled the buildings that formed the residence of the Governor (now the County Museum). The outer ramparts date from the reign of Elizabeth. On November 11, 1647, Charles I took refuge here and remained as a prisoner. The Bowling Green, in the Tilt Yard, to the E. of the Castle, bounded by Norman banks, was formed for his recreation. His attempts to escape were unsuccessful. In 1650 his children were lodged in the castle, and Princess Elizabeth died there. An Official Guide may be bought on the spot. The complete circuit of the walls may be made, which includes the keep. Visit also the Well House, where the wheel is worked by a donkey treading on steps inside it; the ruined apartments of Charles I; and the museum in the Gate House. Sir William Davenant, the poet, was also a prisoner here, finishing his poem *Gondibert* during his captivity.

Carisbrooke church (St Mary) is the most interesting in the island. Soon after 1150 a Priory of the Norman Benedictine Abbey of Lyra was founded at Carisbrooke. This stood on the N. side, but no trace of it remains. The nave is Norman but the chancel was destroyed in Elizabethan times. The tower is 15th cent., and the grotesques on its string courses are noteworthy. Note inside the 16th-cent. tomb of Lady Margaret Wadham, and the carved pulpit (1658). Remains of a Roman house were found in the vicarage grounds in 1859. There was a central hall of 45 ft by 40 ft, and in two of the rooms were mosaic floors. This house seems to have been occupied c. 250–350.

## **Route 22. – Walk round W. from Whitwell Station**

**Whitwell** church is mainly 16th cent. and later, but there are remains of 12th-cent. masonry. The dedication is to St Mary and St Radegund – the latter a rare dedication, recalling the Abbey of St Radegund (a French saint) near Dover. There is a Jacobean communion table and a good carved pulpit. An item for students of church bells is a bell said to have been founded by Peter de Weston in 1350. Its inscription is recorded as 'Mikaelis Campana fugiant pulsante prophana: P. W.' This, probably copied incorrectly, makes no sense, and does not scan (the author would be glad to have a correct copy). The narrow valley in the Down to the S. is called Whitwell Shute. At the S. end of the village take the lane W., cross the stream which is the headwaters of the eastern Yar, and so come to the Newport–Niton road, where turn l. for **Niton** (new town). Its church was one of the earliest Norman churches (c. 1070–80), and one of those given by Fitz-Osborne to the Norman Abbey of Lyra, but it is now mainly of 13th-cent. date. Ancient British remains were found in the neighbourhood in 1925. Past the church a lane NW. brings you to the NE. end of St Catherine's Hill (780 ft) and a path continues across the N. shoulder. From this climb the hill, with magnificent views; then return to it, and follow it NW. and then N., leaving the Hoy monument on r., and so into a lane for the hamlet of **Appleford**, on a small tributary of the Medina. There is here an ancient house much restored. **Appuldurcombe**, c. 2 m. E. (=apple-tree combe) along with Appleford seems to show that the district was in the 14th cent. famous for its apple orchards. Now take the lane SE. on to the Niton road, and continue S. on it for c. 1 m., where just past the inn is a lane E. to Whitwell.

### **Route 23. – Walk round from Yarmouth Station**

Cross the Yar W. to Norton and follow a track running SW. to Colwell Bay. Then follow the coast along the shore of the beautiful **Totland Bay**. At the hotel take the road nearer the coast, and then fork r. by path over Headon Hill (c. 400 ft), to **Alum Bay**, with its famous cliffs of varicoloured sand. A little beyond the Needles Hotel, take the road E. and fork r. for Farringford House (R. 20). Then by road NE. to Freshwater station past All Saints' church and over the Causeway at the head of the Yar estuary. Cross the railway, beyond which a path goes E. to Wilmingham Lane, which leads into the road to **Thorley**. The church here was deserted in 1871; porch and belfry remain. Return to Yarmouth station.



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